Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

APU Requests Dialogue With European Parliament

JN1904180290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA)—The Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] Council has addressed a message to the European Parliament in which it is called upon to hold a joint meeting and exchange viewpoints in a manner that will lead to a positive dialogue that will guarantee the common interests of the Arab and European communities.

In their message, which was addressed to the European Parliament speaker, the Arab parliamentarians stressed that Israel has refused and is still refusing to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and that it possesses and is continuing to produce and develop this kind of weaponry.

The message reads as follows:

On 5 April 1990, the European Parliament issued a statement against Iraq. The statement astonished the APU members because of the erroneous and baseless information it included against one of the APU member-states. Regrettably, the APU found that the European Parliament's statement coincided with the anti-Iraq campaign, which is being managed by hostile sides. The Arab parliamentarians also noted that the European Parliament's statement included a mixture of accusations, which when analyzed objectively, lack the physical evidence to justify this hostile campaign. It is sufficient here to point out that in the field of peaceful use of nuclear energy, Iraq was one of the first states to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Moreover, Iraq has accurately abided by the provisions of this treaty. The International Atomic Enery Authority [IAEA] has proved this more than once. In accordance with this treaty, inspection committees have conducted regular inspection of the Iraqi nuclear installations, the last of which was conducted during this week. In light of this, the APU calls on the European Parliament to strive to seek the truth.

Iraq is being exposed to this hostile campaign in order that its reputation and peaceful stands be tarnished, and consequently to provide a pretext for any attempt to attack its scientific and industrial installations. Under these circumstances, the APU notes that the European Parliament has ignored the fact that Israel has refused and is still refusing to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. In fact, it is the only state in the region that possesses and is continuing to develop these kinds of weapons. Moreover, its military forces are using poisonous gas every day to kill the Palestinians in their homeland, thus ignoring the simplest rules of international law, all the resolutions of the UN General Assembly and Security Council, and the principles of human rights.

In light of the aforementioned, the APU expresses its strong solidarity with Iraq and deep appreciation of Iraq's peaceful stands and its resolute determination to defend its security and sovereignty. The APU stresses Iraq's right to possess scientific and technological means to guarantee the development of its society and to defend its security and sovereignty. The APU calls for a meeting between the European Parliament and the APU to exchange objective viewpoints in a fair manner with the puropse of explaining the facts of the situation in the region to pave the way for a positive dialogue that guarantees the common interests of the Arab and European communities.

During the final session, National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih announced Iraq's readiness to host any joint meeting between the APU and the European Parliament.

Delegations representing Arab parliaments in the United Arab Emirates, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Djibouti, Iraq, the State of Palestine, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, the Yemen Arab Republic, and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen participated in the APU's extraordinary session.

Efforts Continuing To Reconcile Iraq, Syria

JN2504183290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Our radio has learned that President Husni Mubarak has informed [Syria's] al-Asad of Egypt's willingness to host a Syrian-Iraqi summit in Cairo. President Mubarak also said he and any other Arab leader are ready to participate in this summit.

The Egyptian president telephoned President al-Asad last night and affirmed the need to overcome the obstacles standing in the way of the summit. Mubarak proposed that the summit agenda be restricted to clearing the atmosphere between the two countries, and to discussing the appropriate means to confront the enemy challenges facing the Arab nation.

President al-Asad said he has agreed to meet with President Saddam Husayn at any proposed venue. However, he said that this meeting should take place without any preconditions.

It is known that President Saddam Husayn has set as condition in the past the need for President Hafiz al-Asad to officially admit the erroneous stance he adopted in support of Iran in the Gulf war, and to order the withdrawal of his forces from Lebanon.

Egypt, Libya, and Jordan will exert intensive efforts with Iraq to reach a compromise solution in this respect over the next few days. The sources affirmed that if the Syrian-Iraqi meeting takes place, Baghdad will be the most likely venue for the Arab summit.

Jordan Government Backs PLO Call for Arab Summit

JN2404184390 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Jordan has joined seven Arab countries in backing a call by the Palestine Liberation Organization for an Arab summit to discuss Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. This came in an official circular presented to the Arab League Secretariat General in Tunis today. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Reaction to U.S. House Resolution

Fatah Official

NC2504143090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo, has denounced the U.S. House of Representatives' resolution considering Jerusalem the capital of Israel. He said that the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate do not have the right to determine the fate of Jerusalem, any more than any other country in the world has the right to determine the fate of Washington and New York. He stressed that Jerusalem's fate should be decided by its Palestinian inhabitants.

In a statement to MENA, the Palestinian official emphasized that the status of Jerusalem must not be infringed upon or altered unilaterally, out of consideration for international laws, the UN resolutions which consider East Jerusalem an indivisible part of the occupied Arab territories, and the 1949 fourth Geneva Convention.

Al-Qidrah added: The United States does not recognize human rights except where the Jews are concerned. When it comes to the violation of these rights in Jerusalem, the Christian quarter, and other Palestinian cities, the United States does not act in response to all this, even with a protest.

The Palestinian official stressed that Jerusalem will always remain the capital of the Palestinian state and that the Palestinian people will continue their struggle and intifadah to obtain their national rights in full. Foremost among these is their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state of their own, he said.

PFLP-GC

JN2504194590 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Commenting on the decision of the U.S. House of Representatives which confirms the U.S. Senate resolution on Jerusalem, adopting it as the capital of Zionism, a responsible source in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated the following:

The U.S. legislative bodies represented in the Senate and the House of Representatives have proven that the United States is the primary enemy of our Arab nation. It is the one that supports the Zionist occupation of Arab Palestine, the one that conspires against Arab Jerusalem to offer it to Zionism as though Jerusalem were a piece of merchandise that the United States could offer to the Zionist entity.

This new U.S. measure is a new, hostile stance against the Arab character of Jerusalem, and goes against the Arab nation. This new U.S. measure scorns all Muslims, and exposes the falsehood of U.S. statements which speak about global human rights. It is also a measure that violates UN resolutions.

The responsible PFLP-GC source added: This U.S. transgression against the Arab character of Jerusalem and against our Arab nation calls for a united Arab stand toward the United States, which grabs every chance to manifest its deep-rooted hatred of our Arab nation and the Arab character of Palestine.

As for the PLO command, the time has come for it to realize the true nature of the U.S. stand and to stop panting after a dialogue with it or trying to curry its favor, since it is the primary enemy of our Palestinian Arab people.

While we denounce and condemn this new U.S. decision adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives on our Jerusalem, we in the PFLP-GC call for adopting deterring positions toward the United States instead of giving in to its schemes and policy. Revolution until the liberation of land and man.

'Arafat Arrives in Sanaa; Discusses 'Threats'

JN2504131290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, arrived in Sanaa last night on a visit to our country lasting [word indistinct] days. [passage indistinct]

Brother 'Arafat said in an arrival statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY that the Arab nation now finds itself in a historic and delicate situation caused by the flood of large numbers of Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union, East Europe, and other countries. They are expected to number 300,000 emigrants a year.

He said the flow of Soviet and other settlers poses a great threat to pan-Arab security and the future of the Palestinian Arab people, who are now waging a heroic jihad against the Zionists, who are supported by world imperialism.

He added that the wave of new emigrants represents a practical measure to realize Zionist goals and set up Greater Israel, which the Israelis have often talked about.

Brother 'Arafat said he would discuss with the brother leader secretary general how to confront challenges and threats to the Arab nation in general and to the Iraqi people in particular.

He pointed out that the state of Palestine had called for an Arab summit in Baghdad to discuss all these developments, primarily Soviet Jewish emigration and the threats to Iraq.

On hand to receive him were brother Dr. Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and General Committee member; Brother 'Abdallah Abu-Hannud, state of Palestine charge d'affaires in Sanaa; and embassy staff.

Confers With YAR President

LD2504214190 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Brother leader Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, continues his Arab tour within the framework of the Palestinian move toward calling for an emergency Arab summit to discuss the situation in the Arab region and the imperialist Zionist threats to the Arab security as a whole.

Today, brother president and leader Yasir 'Arafat conferred with North Yemeni [Yemen Arab Republic] President 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih. They discussed developments in the blessed uprising, the dangers of the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, and threats to the Arab nation.

According to an informed Palestinian source, the Yemeni president welcomed the Palestinian invitation to hold an emergency Arab summit.

Brother President and Leader Abu Ammar visited Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar before his visit to Sanaa. It is expected that brother President Yasir 'Arafat will continue his Arab tour by visiting all the Arab capitals.

PLO Aide Discusses USSR Emigration With Finns

PM2504131790 Helsinki HUFVUDSTADSBLADET in Swedish 19 Apr 90 p 5

[Staffan Bruun report: "PLO Called on Koivisto, Paasio"]

[Text] Bassam Abu Sharif was a secretive man yesterday. Abu Sharif is Yasir 'Arafat's special adviser and one of the PLO's leaders. Yesterday he was in Helsinki to discuss the mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

The recent news that Finland will allow Jewish emigrants to travel to Israel via Finland gave rise to an immediate PLO reaction. Yesterday Abu Sharif handed over a letter from Yasir 'Arafat to President Mauno Koivisto. He also had talks lasting over 30 minutes with Foreign Minister Pertti Paasio.

Neither side was willing to reveal what was said in these meetings.

"I voiced a number of concrete requests concerning how Finland can help speed up the peace process in the Middle East."

Abu Sharif did not reveal what these concrete requests were. The Foreign Ministry's Asko Numminen, who was present at the discussions, was equally secretive.

"Abu Sharif gave an account of the present situation in the Middle East. Then he voiced the PLO's views on the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel via Finland."

What did he think about the fact that Finland has granted the Jews transit visas?

"I do not want to reveal the content of the discussions," Numminen said.

During Bassam Abu Sharif's press conference yesterday afternoon he said that, in his letter to Koivisto, 'Arafat had chiefly given an account of the recent developments "in the peace process in the Middle East."

"The letter also contains views on how Finland could contribute to the peace process and influence the Israeli Government to accept negotiations."

Abu Sharif was unwilling to express a view yesterday to the assembled journalists on Finland's decision to allow emigration to Israel via Helsinki.

"The PLO does not interfere in the decisions of the Finnish Government. We back the right of all people to travel freely and settle where they will.

"But this must not mean that another people's human rights are suppressed. That is what will happen if the Soviet Jews settle in the occupied areas.

"The PLO would never accept anyone coming to Finland, taking the Finns' land, and stealing their homes," Abu Sharif said.

He said that only a small number of Soviet Jews want to travel to Israel.

"They want to go to the United States or some other Western country. But as the West has closed its borders the Soviet Union has opened its. This means that the Jews who want to leave the Soviet Union are forced to go to Israel."

Abu Sharif said that the PLO has made two requests to the Soviet Union.

"First, we have asked them to refrain from arranging an airlift direct from the Soviet Union to Israel. This would be forcing the Jews to go to Israel, where they do not want to go.

"Second, we have have asked the Soviet Union to grant the Jews ordinary passports so that they can return if

they want to. At present the Jews are being given exit visas, which means that they are refused reentry.

"The right to return should also be one of the human rights," Abu Sharif said.

He does not think much of the five-day transit visas which Finland has granted the Jews.

"I do not think there is any logic in telling the Jews that they have five days to arrange a visa to a third country, but if they fail they must join the occupying forces.

"They are given five days in which to find a way to avoid traveling to Israel and occupying the land of the Palestinians. What sort of ultimatum is that? Why should the Palestinians accept something like that?

"We will fight against all occupying forces regardless of whether they are Polish, Soviet, or other Jews."

According to Abu Sharif, Israel has classified as secret all information relating to Soviet Jews, how many there are, and where they settle.

"The reason could only be that the figures do not brook publicity, because the Soviet Jews are being placed in the occupied areas."

Abu Sharif said that the PLO has nothing against many millions of Jews emigrating to Israel once the Israelis and the Palestinians have reached agreement.

"Once we have reached a negotiated settlement as many people as you like can move to Israel, as far as we are concerned."

According to Abu Sharif, the exodus of Soviet Jews is particularly ill timed.

"At present Israel is under increasing pressure to go to the negotiating table. But the government is refusing to negotiate. In that situation the Soviet Jews will reinforce the occupying force.

"Israel makes use of people seeking freedom and peace as tools of oppression.

"Israel stubbornly refuses to accept peace. The alternative is war. And bearing in mind the arsenals that have been assembled in the Middle East, its close neighbor, Europe, cannot avoid being affected," Abu Sharif warned, folding his hands with their total of six fingers. He lost four in an murder attempt in 1972.

PLO Official Meets Dutch Ambassador in Tunis

JN2504191290 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Yesterday morning, brother Abu-Ja'far ['Abd-al-Latif Abu-Hijlah], director of the PLO's Political Department, discussed the importance of the European role in supporting the Middle East peace process with Netherlands Ambassador to Tunis, Mr. Piet-Hein Houben. They also discussed the political developments of the Palestine question in the Arab and international arenas, and the situation inside the occupied homeland. The meeting was attended by [name indistinct], counselor at the Netherlands Embassy.

Algeria

Government Condemns U.S. Decision on Jerusalem

LD2604060790 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] In New York, a spokesman of the Algerian Foreign Ministry has published a statement condemning the decision taken yesterday by the U.S. House of Representatives concerning the status of the occupied holy city of Jerusalem. In this statement, the Foreign Ministry states particularly: It is with the deepest indignation that Algeria learned of the U.S. House of Representatives' adoption of a resolution intending to designate holy Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Such a resolution, adds the statement, taken after a similar one adopted on 22 March by the U.S. Senate, illustrates a deep contempt towards the historical reality of holy Jerusalem and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Adopted during the holy month of Ramadan and on the eve of 'Id al-Fitr, it represents, adds the communique of the Algerian Foreign Ministry, an incomprehensible provocation of the Islamic community, whose attachment to the third sacred place of the religion cannot be underestimated. Adopted in ignorance and in violation of international legality, adds the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, it constitutes an added obstacle to the search for a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East, which the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives should have assigned itself to, especially in the face of Zionist intransigence. Another challenge has thus been declared to the face of the Arab and Islamic community as well as the whole international community, which is concerned about the respect of international legality such as, for instance, is illustrated by the resolutions of the UN Assembly General and Security Council. Algeria, adds the statement of the Foreign Ministry, which rejects and condemns this resolution, calls upon the Arab and Islamic peoples as well as all peoples attached to the preservation of the high universal spirituality of holy Jerusalem to mobilize themselves to defeat this initiative and to denounce the offensive which is contrary to the peace it represents. [as heard]

Government Council Discusses Pre-Election Status

LD2504135790 Algiers APS in English 1040 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Algiers, 25 April (APS)—The Council of Government, which met Tuesday [24 April] under the chairmanship of the head of government, Mouloud Hamrouche, assessed the social and political situation which resulted from the preparation of the forthcoming local elections.

After its communique issued on April 16 related to the protection of individual and collective freedoms, the guarantee of the security of persons and goods, the government noted the adhesion of the population to all the measures taken and its attachment to the respect freedoms [as received] the state of law and the exercise of political and trade union activities in constitutional legality.

The Council of Government deplored in this decisive phase for the evolution of the country, the persistance of demagocial and electoralist discourse, the resort to the use of mosques for partizan aims, the rise of extremism and obscurantism at a time when the generalization of black market, and deep crisis of the educational system, the stagnation of production and the decrease of employment and the [word indistinct] concerns of citizens should have been the first concerns of political, social and cultural associations.

The Council of Government which reiterated its determination to fight all forms of intolerance, intimidation and violence, speculation and black market activities, called all citizens to take peaceful initiatives, mainly through their associations to be present and make their voices heard in the debate on the future of the country.

The mobilization of all the citizens around concrete programs of cultural, scientific and economic progress is undoubtedly the only guarantor of an evolution that will be up to the hopes of our youth. The popular pressure for a serene and peaceful debate on the political, social and economic problems of he country will enable with the support of the country, to prevent any form of political manipulations and suppress the effects of foreign media campaigns aimed at destabilizing the country and attempt on the national unity. The government also examined a draft bill on land, town improvement and urbanism.

Hamrouche Assesses Government's Initiatives

LD2504235190 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Purging the national markets from speculation, reducing inflation, and combating violence are government measures aimed at dealing with issues that preoccupy our citizens. These issues, plus the recent developments in the national arena, were assessed by Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche in his talks with colleague Zine El Abidine Bouacha:

[Begin recording] [Bouacha] Mr. Prime Minister, what is your assessment of the political, economic, and social situation at the end of the great month of Ramadan?

[Hamrouche] In the name of God the merciful and compassionate. Prayers and peace be upon the most honorable messenger. On this occasion, I would like to thank Algerian television for this opportunity at the end of the month of Ramadan.

Two months ago, in the "Meet the Press" program, I stated that we had begun the actual implementation of reform, and that there were changes that would take place. We have started the process. First, we initiated procedures that will lead to municipal and provincial elections. By this we gave the go ahead for a true democratic movement at the grassroots level. We established a complete and integrated structure for combating inflation and protecting the Algerian dinar. We started to confront the poor organization of internal and foreign trade and to

combat speculation. As we were doing that, we were fully aware that, inevitably, we would disturb and threaten illegitimate interests and illegal concessions. Therefore we expected, because of this, direct opposition to the reforms and attacks at the various fronts.

During the blessed month of Ramadan, this opposition and these attacks escalated into wide operations aimed at disturbing market stability and striking at prices. There were attempts at increasing the pressure of the crisis through a campaign consisting solely of illegitimate and unrealistic demands, demagogue one-upmanship, biased attacks and criticism, especially criticizing the past without giving solutions for the problems of the future. The situation turned into something like maneuvers and threats all of which were aimed at covering up the violent operations which we witnessed on some days during this blessed month.

We have said and stressed that we would never allow any movement or group to attempt by force, or secret machinations and maneuvers to obstruct the reforms and the progress of democracy, or to obstruct the movement towards decreasing the pressure on our people and country. Naturally, this is in addition to a normal, concentrated political action which is the result, and is caused by, the secrets and unknown results of the coming elections, and their outcome.

Fortunately, the brother citizens faced up to these damaging activities wisely, responsibly, and with deep perception.

On this occasion, I would like to ask my brother and sister citizens to mobilize themselves and be active in every arena and in every society, whether political or cultural, and to express their will in freeing themselves from, and ridding themselves of, guardianship and escaping from the one-upmanship and pressures, and to demand the continuation of the reform march in an atmosphere of tranquility, peace, and respect for the law at all times.

On the other hand, let everyone know that the only way to assume power is through elections and the will of the people. Let everyone know that absolute respect of the right to express oneself and of the right to political action are secured on legal and constitutional bases, and will always be protected by the public authorities. We must all support democracy and freedom, and make them the basis for continuing our march forward.

On this occasion, which is the last day of the blessed month of Ramadan, I would like to wish the brother and sister citizens a happy 'Id and may it return with prosperity for our people and nation and with stability and peace. I hope that next year by the time of 'Id al-Fitr, we will have almost completely overcome the crisis we are witness to today. This way, we will rise up to the level of the developed countries. Thank you and peace be upon you. [end recording]

Libya

JANA Political Editor on U.S. Resolution

LD2504211690 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 25 Apr (JANA)—The U.S. House of Representatives has declared its recognition of occupied Jerusalem as eternal capital of the Zionist enemy, confirming a Senate resolution on the matter. JANA's political editor commented on this saying: the U.S. House of Representatives' resolution recognizing Jerusalem as capital of the Zionist entity is a confirmation of an earlier U.S. Senate resolution, and an affirmation of the U.S. challenge to the feelings of the Arabs and Muslims in general, and to the international and regional organizations which denounced the U.S. Senate resolution, and a confirmation of the U.S. belittling of Arab, Islamic and international public opinion in relation to the Arab-Zionist conflict, and a humiliating surrender to what the Zionist lobby represents in the United States. [passage omitted]

We confirm to America and Zionism that such resolutions will only make the Arab and Islamic nations more determined to hold on to their rights in full which are not in doubt, in order to liberate the land of Palestine from the sea to the river and from the south to the south. [sentence as received] [passage omitted]

Commentary on NATO's 'Breach of Resolutions'

LD2404180590 Tripoli JANA in English 1720 GMT 24 Apr 90

["Commentary by the Political Editor"—all quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tayr, 24 [Apr], JANA—Joint NATO naval forces began a large scale naval manoeuvres in the Meditteranean Sea waters which will continue until the first of the next al-Sayf [May] month.

Taking part in those manoeuvres are states which originally are non-Meditteranean states such as the United States, Great Britain, and West Germany.

JANA's political editor commented on such manoevres by saying: "These manoevres come only six months after similar manoevres NATO staged in [the] western Meditteranean region. He pointed out that they are repeated every few months and constitute a flagrant breach of the resolutions taken by the international and regional organisations in particular the states of the non-aligned region calling for the Meditteranean to become a sea for peace and cooperation. But it seems that the NATO states, and behind the United States of America, which is taking part despite its remoteness from the region, are determined to disregard those resolutions and turning the Meditteranean Sea into a stage for manoevres and for amassing war-fleets with all the meaning it carries which is a defiance of the wishes and the feelings of the people

of the region and their will and what that represents as a threat to international navigation, peace and security.

The editor added: "The insistance on staging those manoevres, as previously warned of the dangers by the leader of the revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi in his letter to the head of the NATO states in the Mediterranean Basin calling on them to work towards turning the Mediteranean into a lagoon of peace and security and taking out from it all the alien war-fleets'.

The insistence to continue staging such manoevres has disappointed us in having cooperation from those states to take this sea away from such dangers and threat which are bound to lead to the abortion of the resolutions taken by the international and regional organisations and wasting the efforts exerted by the peace-loving forces for the security and the peace of the Meditteranean regions and what reflection it has on world peace and security.

JANA's political editor went on to say: "If the matter was concerning staging manoevres by only the states of the region, singularly or as groups, maybe that could have been justified...but as states from outside the region thousands of kilometers away from it are taking part in them. This is a matter that cannot be justified at all. It is even considered undisguised challenge to the will, desires, and feelings of all the nations in the region. And it is considered walking in the opposite direction to what they endeavour to achieve and desire by the nations of the world which love to live in security and peace."

The editor concluded his commentary by saying: "From here great Jamahiriyah, as it strongly condemns such manoevres it warns once more about the dangers they carry and calls upon the states of the Meditteranean Sea basin to genuinely cooperate amongst them to concentrate their efforts to put an end to the military manoevres and build-ups in the region and take the Meditteranean Sea away from all forms of military conflicts and confirm the practical desires to turn the region into a region of international security, peace and cooperation.

Students March in Support of Yemen Unity

LD2404181690 Tripoli JANA in English 1706 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr, 24 [Apr], JANA—The Yemeni Arab students studying in Great Jamahiriyah took to the streets today in a march supporting the unity steps taken by both Yemens.

The Yemeni student masses asserted their support for the unity steps aimed at the unification of Yemen and stand in the face of the conspiracies being plotted to disrupt the unity steps.

The student march roamed the streets of Tripoli city heading towards the embassies of North and South Yemen chanting slogans supporting the achievement of Yemen unity.

The Yemeni Arab students studying in Great Jamahiriyah sent a cable to the leader of the revolutio expressing their utmost appreciation for his efforts accomplish Yemen unity renewing their pledge to sta by loyal soldiers for the achievement of Pan-Arab unit

Sudan

Further on Foiled Coup Attempt

14 Officers Sentenced; Curfew Imposed

NC2604083490 Cairo MENA in English 0750 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Apr (MENA)—The Sudanese m itary tribunals yesterday passed sentences on 14 office who took part in the attempted coup d'etate on Mond [23 April]. The sentences included sacking four officer Four other officers were divested of their ranks, sack and sentenced to from three to fifteen years in prison. S officers were found innocent in court.

Meanwhile, curfew will be claimed as of today fro 23:00 until 04:00 according to a decision by the centr military administration in the Sudanese capital.

Three Officers Arrested Before Coup

JN2504190090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Well-informed Sudanese sources have said th the Sudanese Armed Forces had arrested three of t officers, who were executed yesterday, two days befo the recent coup. The three officers were Major Gener 'Uthman Balulah, Major General Khalid al-Zayn, a Colonel Muhammad Ahmad Qasim.

It was reported that these three had formed a Ba'thi grouping within the Army under the name of the Fr Officers Grouping.

On the other hand, it has been learned that a ne disagreement has emerged within the Sudanese Milita Council [as heard] caused by the speedy trials leading the execution of the leaders of the recent coup attemp According to available information, Al-Bashir is cu rently studying a reshuffling of the Military Coun under which some officers, who do not belong [wo indistinct] to the Islamic Front, will be relieved of the posts. Interior Minister Faysal Abu-Salih will be relieve of his post and will be appointed as Sudanese ambas sador in Cairo, and al-Tijani al-Tahir, member of t Military Council, will be appointed as Sudan's ambas sador in London.

In a speech he delivered at a rally in Khartoum th morning, organized by the Islamic Front, he spoke support of the death sentences that were issued. 'Um al-Bashir said that he will strike with an iron fist confront all those who try to tamper with the securi and stability of the country.

Mubarak Congratulates Al-Bashir

EA2604150690 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Apr (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council chairman, today received a telephone call from his brother, President Husni Mubarak, the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt. His excellency briefed President Mubarak during the conversation on the situation in the Sudan following the failed coup attempt.

President Mubarak extended to Lt. Gen. 'Umar the congratulations of the Egyptian Government and people, to their brothers in the Sudan.

SPLM's Akol Discusses Military, Domestic Issues

JN2104152590 Paris AL-YAWM AL-SABI' in Arabic 16 Apr 90 pp 12, 13

[Interview with Lam Akol, member of the political command of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], by Ibrahim Khalifah; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] Intensive talks were held from 23 to 27 March 1990 between delegations of Sudan's al-Ummah Party and the SPLM—the first led by Dr. Sulayman Muhammad al-Diblu, Central Committee member of the party and comprising Salah Jalal Muhammad Ahmad and Hasan Muhammad al-Hasan; the second led by Dr. Mansur Khalid, political adviser to the movement's leader John Garang, and comprising Lam Akol, member of the higher political command of the movement, who is also a member of the the higher military command of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] and director of the Upper Nile Province.

The talks ended with the conclusion of an agreement whereby the SPLM joined the National Democratic Grouping [NDG]—the framework that came into being a few months ago and incorporated al-Ummah Party, the National Democratic Unionist Party, and the Communist Party, in order for Sudan's major political forces to group under a unified organizational formula and adopt a joint political line and plan vis-a-vis the military government that has been in power since June 1989.

According to information available to Al-YAWM AL-SABI', the four parties apparently want the NDG be to virtually inaccessible to other parties—at least for the time being. A key objective of these parties, however, will be to establish contact with trade union leaders in Sudan and coordinate moves with workers and professional sectors including lawyers, doctors, students, engineers and judges, among other groups. [passage omitted]

The interview AL-YAWM AL-SABI' conducted with Dr. Lam Akol ranged over all these developments, outstanding issues related to the ongoing war between the Central Government and the SPLA, the solution envisaged by the NDG, and the political precepts espoused by the SPLM. Following is the text:

[Khalifah] What is the state of the negotiations between the SPLM and Sudanese parties to consolidate an expanded opposition front?

[Akol] As we have already announced, we have given initial endorsement to the general guidelines and the spirit of the program of the NDG and announced that we will introduce additions of our own before it is finalized. We are now in the stage of talks and discussions with other forces about the points featured in the program and additions we would like to see incorporated into it.

[Khalifah] Which parties are to join the front, and what are the goals you will be pursuing?

[Akol] The front will be open to whichever parties and organizations believe in democracy and the NDG and oppose military dictatorship and a monopoly on power. The front will promote the national goals stated in the program, namely the overthrow of the military regime, the installation of true democracy free from tutelage over the people, and the institution of democratic establishments and legislation.

[Khalifah] What are the means you will use to topple the regime?

[Akol] All available means will be used to topple the regime, including military means.

[Khalifah] Will you ask the other opposition forces to participate in the armed struggle to topple the regime?

[Akol] Every party, political force, and faction will participate as much as it can and by the available means. The front is a framework to unify all these means with the objective of resisting the military regime.

[Khalifah] The Ummah Party formed militias of its loyalists when it was in power. Will it now use this force to confront the regime militarily?

[Akol] It is better to address this question to the Ummah Party itself, because it knows better about its resources and future plans.

[Khalifah] I mean that it is one of your allies now, so will you ask it and the other allies to help you shoulder part of the burdens of military confrontation with the regime?

[Akol] We do not ask any of the political parties to participate in the armed struggle, and we will not ask them to do more than they can. This is because we know that this kind of struggle requires difficult and extraordinary capabilities. Moreover, it has its own conditions that might not be available to this or that party. We want every party to contribute as much as it can. However, we undoubtedly welcome any other party in Sudan to participate in the armed struggle to settle the situation quickly, to increase the regime's current suffering, and to

bring solutions closer to all our Sudanese people. At any rate, the decision to participate in armed struggle is not binding to any party.

[Khalifah] What is the current military situation between you and the regime's armed forces?

[Akol] The combat and military situation is now comfortable for our fighters, because we hold the reins of the initiative in our hands. It is no secret to anyone in Sudan that the morale of the regime's armed forces is collapsing because they have no faith in the objectives of the regime or in the war it insists on waging. All sides now, inside and outside Sudan, are aware of the Khartoum rulers' lies on the military situation in the battlefields. Everything broadcast in Khartoum is aimed at deceiving the people and raising the army's morale. However, the tangible results of the battles can tell lies from the truth and make facts bright and clear.

[Khalifah] What is the number of prisoners that you have among the armed forces?

[Akol] We have more than 500 military prisoners of various ranks; between colonel and private. Among these prisoners there are officers and commanders who are well known in the armed forces and in all Sudan. [passage omitted]

[Khalifah] How do you assess information about the resumption of Libyan aid to your movement?

[Akol] Baseless information. Our relations are continuing with our brothers and friends in Libya, but the aid has stopped since 1985. There are consultations and dialogues between us, and we visit them and meet with them. However, they have suspended their aid, and we are no longer in dire need of this aid.

[Khalifah] Are there any other states extending aid to you?

[Akol] Yes, there are several other states helping us, but only politically.

[Khalifah] Are you trying to expand the scope of fighting to the west, center, and north of Sudan?

[Akol] Our forces are now present in the west and center. We are fighting in a huge area of Sudan. Regarding the north, it is not in a static military state, as some might think. The north is a militarily dynamic region. We are not concealing the fact that we are seriously working to expand the scope of confrontation to include all major positions of power, especially in the north. We will not rule out the possibility that this might take place in the near future.

[Khalifah] What are your comments on the military successes achieved by the Eritreans recently against the Ethiopian forces? What is your stand on these successes?

[Akol] What is happening in Eritrea is none of our business. We are only interested in what is happening in Sudan because it is our major and principal national cause. [passage omitted]

[Khalifah] How true are the Sudanese Government's claims on your contacts and cooperation with Israel?

[Akol] These rumors only indicate the politically and ideologically bankrupt military regime in its confrontation of the popular movement and our national masses. The evidence for that is that the present regime, like some of the forces hostile to us in the past, finds nothing to confront our proposals and victories with the exception of accusing us of cooperating with Israel. This lie has become an ever-ready accusation. However, it has also stopped convincing anyone inside Sudan; even the Arab brothers—officials and citizens—have stopped believing these claims because those making them have been unable to provide one piece of convincing evidence throughout all these years.

The Khartoum rulers once again resorted to repeating these lies to cover up for their inability and failure to justify the policies they insist on following and the aid they request from the Arab countries.

For our part, we affirm on every occasion that our position on Israel and the Palestine question is clear and fixed with no ambiguity or hesitation.

Theoretically and practically, we are in contradiction with Zionist racist thinking and condemn Israel's practices and occupation of the Arab Palestinian lands. We support the Palestinian people in their just and legitimate struggle without any reservation, support the PLO, and demand recognition of the Palestinian Arab peoples' right to self-determination.

Even from the theoretical and ideological aspect, we conflict with and stand diametrically opposed to Israel and Zionism. Our declared goals differ widely from those of the Zionist project and Israel.

During the Ambo Conference, which convened in February 1989 (a conference on the future of Sudan called for by the movement and held in Ethiopia with the presence of academics and politicians), we participated positively and effectively together with other forces in issuing a clear decision which condemns Zionism, racism, and colonialism. We have always opposed Zionism because it is expansionist and racist.

The brothers in the PLO know our stands and the fact that we support them. There are strong and solid ties between us and them. We meet with them on every occasion or wherever we both might be at the same time.

I would like to inform you now that all the factions and forces of the SPLM celebrated on the ninth of last December the second anniversary of the great popular intifadah of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories. We consider this intifadah a guiding light for all the people struggling for their freedom, including our Sudanese people.

Official Leads Defense Force Convoy to Getina

EA2504132890 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Apr (SUNA)—Deputy commissioner of the national capital, Colonel Yusuf 'Abd al-Fattah Sunday [22 April] led a "support convoy" for the Popular Defence Forces [PDF] in Getina Town, White, Nile Province. Some 2,000 persons have [been] recruited in the PDF in the national capital alone in the first batch. Col. 'Abd al-Fattah was accompanied by senior officials at the National Capital Commission.

Bahrain

Amir on Support for Iraq's 'Peaceful Stances'

JN2204160690 Manama WAKH in English 1535 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Paris, April 22 (GNA) H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, has expressed his support for the holding of an emergency Arab summit to adopt a collective Arab strategy to confront dangers facing the Arab nation at a time of many international changes.

In an interview with the Paris-based 'AL-YAWM AL-SABI' magazine, to be published tomorrow, H.H. the amir said the Arab nation was facing the preparations for a fresh Israeli aggression against Iraq. H.H. the amir said any such aggression will have a negative impact on relations between the Arab countries and the countries which support or ignore the Israeli action.

H.H. the amir reiterated Bahrain's support for Iraq in his legal defence of its scientific establishments and sovereignty, as well as its peaceful stances which enhance security and stability in the region.

H.H. the amir expressed his belief that the Arab role in the peace process can be supported through solidarity and material and moral support for the Palestinian uprising.

H.H. the amir expressed support for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East under the patronage of the United Nations and with the attendance of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, as well as the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people.

On the U.S. Senate decision which considers Jerusalem [the] capital of Israel, H.H. the amir of Bahrain said the decision represents a monstrous challenge that provokes the feelings of Arab and Muslim peoples, adding that this decision would create a new obstacle against efforts to achieve peace.

The current international changes had shown the emergence of a new world depending on dialogue and understanding for solving international problems peacefully, H.H the amir said .

H.H. the amir called for more contacts with the U.S. Senate in order to contribute to the peace efforts instead of adopting a strict pro-Israel policy that would harm peace efforts at this difficult stage.

H.H. the amir called for an Arab campaign to expose Israel's practices against Palestinian human rights in the occupied Arab territories.

H.H. the amir also said the no war no peace situation between Iran and Iraq and the breakdown of peace talks would not serve the interests of the two countries and it would reflect negatively on the region.

He pointed to the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states' support to the U.N. efforts in solving differences between the two states within the framework of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, adding that this support will be continued in this direction in order to clear the atmosphere.

H.H. the amir hailed Iraq's positive spirit towards initiatives for finding an urgent solution for this conflict, expressing the hope that Iran would respond positively in order to overcome this problem.

On the Arab stand towards rapid changes in Eastern Europe, H.H. the amir said the official bodies in the Arab states are requested to draw up a comprehensive outlook for future political and economic relations with the East European countries in order to establish strong trade relations with them.

On consolidating the role of GCC states, H.H. the amir stressed that this role included a joint responsibility for all member states and he pointed out that coordination in economic, social, political and cultural development should be interlinked in order to achieve the expected integration, adding that further development leads to enhanced security.

H.H. the amir stressed that coordination among GCC states is more important now than at any time before in order to face the challenges and current changes being witnessed by our modern world.

H.H. the amir said linking Bahrain with Saudi Arabia via King Fahd Causeway was the most important strategic targets of Bahrain pointing out that the opening of the causeway in 1986, was a new and advanced phase in the history of relations between the two brotherly states.

H.H. the amir of Bahrain described the three Arab groupings as an aspect of Arab cooperation in the 80's, but within the framework of the Arab League. The groupings are foundations for Arab solidarity which became an urgent demand in order to fall in step with major international economic blocs.

On Bahrain's economic policy to maintain its role as an active financial centre in the region, H.H. the amir stressed that Bahrain's success in this field lies in its capability of absorbing the flow of capital within the framework of guarantees provided by the State of Bahrain for financial investment and money transfer as well as its ability to overcome negative effects of banking and financial developments world wide.

Bahrain will continue to provide the suitable atmosphere for financial establishments working in the country and enhance their services so as to include the industrial sector, H.H the amir said.

Bahrain is to expand Bahrain Aluminum Company (ALBA) to bring the production to 450,000 tons annualy, modernize the oil refinery, strengthen joint Gulf efforts for

marketing petrochemical, iron and steel products, developmental light and medium industries as encouraging citizens to invest in this sector, H.H the amir concluded.

Kuwait

Reportage on Shaykh Sabah's Meetings at UN

Addresses Nonaligned Leaders

LD2404175790 Kuwait KUNA in English 1624 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] United Nations, April 24 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah said Tuesday developments in Eastern Europe and improved relations between the two super-powers call for a "comprehensive assessment" by the Nonaligned Movement of the present international situation.

Shaykh Sabah told a foreign ministers meeting the nonaligned countries must draw a future strategy that takes into account the challenge of the new decade and the Movement's role in protecting the interests of the developing countries and to neutralise the negative factors that might arise from the unfolding developments.

Among them are the "primary and crucial issues" such as the Palestinian question, the issue of southern Africa and other just causes, Shaykh Sabah told the closed meeting.

"The major powers of the world are still present in the international arena, a fact by which our Movement is required to adhere to its fundamental principle and pursue its pioneering role of securing non-alignment with whichever bloc underway and circumstances whatsoever," Shaykh Sabah said.

The Kuwaiti official arrived here Saturday to participate in the General Assembly's special session on international economic cooperation which began (?Monday) and ends Saturday.

He is scheduled to address the 160-member body later in the day.

While at the U.N., Shaykh Sabah also is holding bilateral discussions with top U.N. officials and visiting foreign ministers, including his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Confers With Iran's Velayati

LD2504100390 Kuwait KUNA in English 0700 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Excerpts] United Nations, April 25 (KUNA)—Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah of Kuwait ended Tuesday a day of hectic diplomatic activity, delivering speeches and conducting bilateral talks with visiting foreign ministers.

Shaykh Sabah wound up the day with an "iftar" [fast-breaking meal during Ramadan] at the residence of Kuwait's permanent representative Muhammad A. Abulhasan, which [was] attended by secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council 'Abdallah al-Bisharah, and all the Kuwaitis in New York.

The key event was Shaykh Sabah's address before the General Assembly's special session on international economic cooperation in which he reviewed developments of the past decade and suggested solutions for the future.

He also welcomed the admission to the U.N. of Namibia and expressed hope that the Palestinians would soon attain self-determination and establish their own state.

Prior to his assembly address, Shaykh Sabah spoke in a special session of foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries of the need for a "comprehensive assesment" of the current situation.

Among his bilateral talks was a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The two ministers discussed the situation between Iraq and Iran and implementation of Resolution 598, matters of bilateral concern and some regional problems. [passage omitted]

Prior to the iftar at the Kuwaiti ambassador's residence, Shaykh Sabah was the guest of Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar at a reception.

Visit by CSFR Foreign Minister Postponed

LD1904130590 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1219 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Prague, 19 Apr (KUNA)—An authoritative source said here today that it has been decided to postpone the official visit to Kuwait by Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier. The visit was scheduled for 21 April.

The source told KUNA that the two sides have agreed to postpone the visit to a later date, which will be set through diplomatic channels between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Editorial Praises Dole Shift on Israel

PM2504134190 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 23 Apr 90 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Dole and the Awakening of U.S. Conscience"]

[Text] Robert Dole, who was one of the most important voices defending Israel in the U.S. Senate for 20 years, has indicated his old stands were unreasonable because Israel is nothing but a wild tiger with historical grudges embedded deep in its heart.

He has revoked his decision supporting the declaration of Jerusalem as Israel's unified capital, now understands

the dimensions of the issue, and realizes it is the Zionist position that is a threat to his country's interests. It even has been said his call for limitation, even reduction, of U.S. aid to Israel in fact reflects the position of the U.S. Administration, which does not dare say as much openly because it fears pro-Israeli reaction.

This development leads one to believe the changes which have begun to appear in the attitudes of U.S. figures are significant indeed, albeit slow. The Palestinian question, which had merely been a phrase repeatedly mentioned in UN and U.S. circles, is now a matter of real conflict between pro-Israeli and anti-Israeli elements in the U.S. political lobbies. Dole is perhaps an example of a brave man out to expose Israeli designs without any fear or hesitation, despite his knowledge he would be fought by the Israeli centers of influence.

The United States, which long had been one-sided in its policies and support for Israel, now understands the rules of the game and realizes it is impossible to continue to exploit inter-Arab contradictions in the interest of Israel, despite its [U.S.] strategic links and major interests with them [the Arabs]. We should not, however, be carried away with dreams that are difficult to fulfill. As far as the United States is concerned, Israel is still the main figure in the region's equation. Still, the conditions resulting from the easing of tension between East and West have given rise to new attitudes to future policies. The old fear of Soviet influence in the region now has receded, and the United States therefore is beginning to steer its policy in a direction that would safeguard its interests.

The fact is there is more rivalry in the region, with the emergence of the idea of a united Europe, with the Soviet Union looking for friends instead of allies, and with the region's increasing economic importance in the coming decades affecting the interests of more than one world power.

That is why we believe Dole has dared to throw the gauntlet in Israel's face—because he could read the future and realizes it is illogical for Israel to be the prime beneficiary of U.S. aid, special armament, and support, even if this is against U.S. interests. This is very significant because the claim that a democratic, prosperous Israel is surrounded by enemies threatening to annihilate it is a lie which had fooled the United States. Israel is the source of danger, for its actions are those of a power defying all states. Its attitude is rejected because the Arabs are capable of reactions equal in strength to that of Israel. It therefore would be in no one's interest if uncontrollable wars were to break out or if Israel were given a free hand in Islamic or Christian holy places, which Israel plans to demolish and it violates on every occasion.

Time was in Israel's favor all these past years but, as it has misbehaved and become a cause of war, times have now changed. The declaration made by some heads of major European states opposing settlement in the occupied territories and condemning Israeli practices against the Palestinians, and the fact some U.S. political and party leaders have unreservedly and openly criticized Israel, make us confident the world's conscience is beginning to change, and that the world now realizes the question of Palestinian rights is not a transitory matter, but rather the key to war or peace in the region, regardless of diversity or unity of attitudes.

King Fahd Delivers Address Marking 'Id Al-Fitr

LD2504184690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1428 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Speech by King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr in Mecca on 25 April]

[Excerpts] Mecca, 25 April, SPA—In the name of God, the compassionate the merciful. [passage omitted] Brother Citizens, God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. Now that God has bestowed upon us the end of Ramadan and the arrival of the holy 'Id al-Fitr, I have the pleasure to turn to you and to all brother Muslims, residents, and visitors to the ancient house, in these immortal happy days, and to all Islamic peoples in various states and countries, and wish you best congratulations and most sincere wishes. I ask God to accept fasting, pilgrimage, zakat, and good deeds from us and from them. [passage omitted]

Brother Muslims, we are welcoming this 'Id full of pain and sorrow for the long-persisting tragedy experienced by our brothers in faith, language, and religion. This is equally so at the level of the Palestinian and Lebanese issues and the current reality of the Afghan mujahidin. These fundamental issues of destiny—led by the Palestinian issue and holy Jerusalem, which we feel God's call in its minaret has not and will not die down, although the Mosque is captured and the imam is captive—have strong ties with the history of our nation. [sentence as received] The struggle of the Palestinian people started with the call of "Allah Akbar" [God is Great] and has developed into the intifadah, which is witnessed now in occupied Palestinian territories. This will continue until victory, God willing.

At another level, we are seeing the struggle of our brothers the Afghan mujahidin. The strong bridge which they are now crossing, despite all the obstacles, will lead to victory or martyrdom.

Sincere greetings to our struggling brothers in Palestine and Afghanistan on this 'Id. There will be prayers for them from the ancient house to God to guide them to that which will ensure the good of their religion and the upholding of its words.

As for the Lebanese issue which is about to come to an end, due to God and to the sincere efforts made, we are fully convinced the alert Lebanese leadership has become aware since the endorsement of the national concord document, approved by Lebanese parliamentarians in al-Ta'if that there will be no way out of the crisis and the restraints in Lebanon, except through the solidarity of the Lebanese themselves around the Lebanese legitimacy—so

they would able to devote themselves to the building of a new Lebanon on firmly established bases of justice and equality among all the sects. [passage omitted]

Crown Prince Speaks

LD2504191990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1445 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Speech by Saudi Crown Prince Abdallah Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz on the occasion of 'Id-al-Fitr in Riyadh on 25 April.]

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 25 April, SPA—[passage omitted] Therefore mankind has no other choice but to move toward Islam, because Islam is the only religion capable of reconciling the body's needs and the soul's yearnings. It is also the only one capable of enabling the Arab world to preserve its Islamic dimension and the Muslim world its human dimension.

Dear Honorable Arab Brethren:

Since the rule of the founding king, 'Abd al-'Aziz, God bless him, until the rule of King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God prolong his life, the Kingdom's policy has always been and still is stemming from its conviction that the safety of the Arab world depends on its unity, the well-foundedness of its directions, and the courage of its stands in the face of the current fundamental changes and fateful events.

We thank God most clouds in the Arab sky have dissipated now, and it is no wonder, because the differences between the Arab brethren were no more than marginal differences. They were differences over the means, not the objectives and goals. [passage omitted]

A new, extremely serious event has taken place lately, namely the influx of Jewish emigrants from Eastern Europe into Israel. It seems world Zionism has not and will not abandon its attempts to establish greater Israel. Israel does not want peace, and it is the only state in the world which has not clearly delimited its borders. This undoubtedly has a clear and profound significance; Israel will not stop at swallowing the West Bank and Gaza, but also hopes to swallow other lands from other Arab states. We must link this new fact with the unjust propaganda campaigns being waged against our beloved Iraq. There is no doubt that World Zionism is behind these virulent campaigns. Israel is determined to deprive us of all means of power and to thwart our capabilities even before they are thought of.

It is sad to see today the foreign policy of the Iranian regime, which is contrary to the will of the brotherly Muslim Iranian people, be in total harmony with Israel's obstructive policy. The policy of the Iranian regime is not only incompatible with Islamic logic but it is also incompatible with the logic of neighborliness and the spirit of the modern times. The revolutionary spirit has lost its ability to seduce, and the revolutions are no longer goods for import and export, especially after the Iranian revolution drowned in the swamp of blood.

Dear Heroic Brethren the Mujahidin in Afghanistan:

We are following your efforts and are proud of your heroic actions. We all have faith in God and in your coming victory, God willing, for faith works miracles and he who is intent on something does it in the end.

Peace be upon you—and God's blessing and mercy.

Fahd Receives Iraqi Defense Minister, Message

LD2004002190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2220 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Holy Mecca, 19 Apr (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, last night [19 April] received in his office in al-Safa Palace in holy Mecca His Excellency 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, the Iraqi defense minister, who was accompanied by the adviser to the Iraqi president, Lieutenant General Hamid Sha'ban. His excellency the Iraqi defense minister handed King Fahd a written message from his brother President Saddam Husayn of Iraq. Dr. 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of education and acting minister of higher education, attended.

The Iraqi defense minister had arrived in Jeddah 18 April and was welcomed on arrival at King 'Abd al-Aziz International Airport by Dr. 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of education and acting minister of higher education; Air Force Lieutenant General Salih al-Sudays, commander of the western region; and a delegate from royal protocol.

Envoy Addresses UN on Mass Destruction Weapons

JN2504193390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] The United Nations, 25 Apr (INA)—Iraq today reaffirmed its readiness to make the Middle East region an area free of the weapons of mass destruction.

This came in a speech delivered by Iraqi Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Wisam al-Zahawi before the extraordinary UN General Assembly [UNGA] session on international economic cooperation.

Al-Zahawi added that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn announced this position to a U.S. Congress delegation on 12 April. He went on to say that the president told the delegation that making the region an area free of mass destruction weapons is the only way to end their proliferation, protect the security and stability of the region, and help secure the huge revenues needed by the region's countries to overcome their economic difficulties.

Al-Zahawi indicated the countries which stress the need for banning only chemical weapons or call for the destruction of only this category of weapons, thus excluding nuclear weapons in the region, are taking an unfair stand that allows Israel—to the exclusion of other parties—to possess a weapon of mass destruction. Thus, Israel would be allowed to continue to pursue its hostile and expansionist policy against the Palestinian and Arab peoples, to annex the occupied Arab territories, and to evict their residents, thus defying the whole international community, al-Zahawi added.

Al-Zahawi affirmed that all categories of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, must be banned. The banning of a single category of weapons to the exclusion of other categories, particularly nuclear, is not acceptable, al-Zahawi said.

Al-Zahawi affirmed that developing nations have the right to attain scientific and technological advancement to develop their economy and modernize their industries for peaceful purposes. He added: The transfer of technology to developing nations has not risen to the level of desirable results. The world is currently witnessing serious attempts to cut down to size the scientific, technological, and industrial capabilities of the developing nations by imposing restrictions on their importation of technology from developed nations.

The Iraqi official went on to say: Iraq is one of the Third World nations that currently is the target of a fierce campaign to hamper its efforts to achieve scientific and industrial progress and to create a propitious climate for launching a new aggression on its nuclear installations—which were built for peaceful purposes—an aggression similar to the one Israel committed in 1981.

Al-Zahawi indicated Iraq is being exposed to unjust and biased campaigns despite the fact it is a signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, its installations are under the constant supervision of the International Atomic Energy Authority, and that it accepted all UN Security Council resolutions calling for the establishment of peace and stability in the region.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary added: At the same time, we see Israel—which has committed repeated aggressions on the Arab states, rejected UN Security Council and UNGA resolutions, and refused to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty—taking part in advanced research programs with the United States—a development which opens the doors wide for it to acquire the most advanced and sophisticated technological innovations regarding the means to develop weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

Arab Lawyers Send Support Message

JN2504151390 Baghdad INA in English 1355 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 25, INA—President Saddam Husayn received a cable of support from Mr Faruk Abu-'Isa, secretary general of the General Federation of Arab Lawyers.

In his cable, Mr Abu-'Isa expressed the federation full support and solidarity with Iraq in its brave and firm stand in combating the anti-Iraq campaign launched by imperialist and Zionist circles.

The secretary general added that in showing its support, the General Federation of Arab Lawyers' secretariat would hold an urgent session in Baghdad next week under the patronage of President Saddam Husayn during which it would draw plans on means to draw the attention of the international public opinion and to confront it with its responsibilities in uncovering aggressive plans against the Arab nation.

UNIIMOG Commander Arrives From Tehran

JN2504122090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA)—Yugoslav General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG], arrived in Baghdad today from Tehran.

Gen. Jovic is visiting Iraq on one of his shuttle trips between Baghdad and Tehran to supervise the UN observers' work on both sides.

Commentary on Al-Asad's Role in 'Hostage Drama'

JN2104140490 Baghdad Voice of the National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria in Arabic 1930 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brother compatriots and Arabs everywhere: After losing much of his reputation and weight on the Arab

and international scenes, Hafiz al-Asad is apparently trying in vain to restore what he has lost. He is doing his best, therefore, to get into the limelight to attract the attention that has somehow turned away from him. It seems that, as part of this attempt, he has taken upon himself and his regime the task of playing a relatively new role in the drama, or rather the monotonous and repetitive game, of the foreign hostages in Lebanon.

If some people believe Hafiz al-Asad is good at playing a double game, the Zionist circles know he is good at assuming the roles given to him and choosing the right time to implement them on the domestic and Arab levels.

Throughout these capitulatory and liquidatory schemes, Hafiz al-Asad was always very careful to appear to hold most of the cards, including the Palestinian and Lebanese cards. Hafiz al-Asad was also careful to distinguish himself from others, whether through his utterances about settlement or his insistence on holding more than one string, card, or objective. Hence, Hafiz al-Asad has recently decided to participate actively in the hostage drama in the hope of depicting himself as having influence in Lebanese and Palestinian events and in the whole region.

He consequently believes success in his new role will certainly secure him a place in the heart of the U.S. Administration and will allow him enjoy the attention of the Western news media and press. In other words, Hafiz al-Asad is seeking to strengthen his position in the subsequent phase of the settlement process, which is now called the international conference—but on U.S. terms.

Another reason that prompted Hafiz al-Asad to act in the foreign hostage issue at this particular time is that the bargain appears to have nearly matured and it is time to reap its fruit. Over the past few weeks, there have been reports that several signals were given by the Iranian regime indicating that resolution of the hostage crisis is imminent. [words indistinct] the American pressures on the Iranian people regarding this are clear and understood. Moreover, the available information and evidence indicate all parties concerned in the foreign hostage issue are seeking an end to it and a solution to the conflict after having exhausted their near- and long-term aims. This means Hafiz al-Asad has been given the cue to play his role in this drama and the opportunity to depict himself as intensifying his mediation for this purpose.

It remains for us to say al-Asad knows quite well the release of hostages by the followers and agents of his allies in Tehran will take place after the Iranian rulers have received their required price, be it weapons or funds. This means Hafiz al-Asad also aims to reassure his allies their need for funds and weapons—to reinforce their military position following their bitter defeat by the heroic Iraqi Army—is his main concern these days.

Hafiz al-Asad's practices have shown he never hesitates to do anything or play any role that will inflict harm and damage on Syria and the Arab nation and that exposes this nation's security, safety, and territory to danger. Hence, we and others wonder why al-Asad is mediating the release of hostages, interfering in the affairs of Lebanon and the Lebanese, and helping Iran and the Iranians at a time when he is not trying to intervene in the Golan Heights and help the people of the Golan, who are resisting and rejecting Zionist enemy measures. We are only wondering, but we all know the answer.

Peres Fails To Form Government; Returns Mandate

TA2604134790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 26 Apr 90

[By party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel from Labor Party Headquarters in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] Shim'on Peres has already returned the mandate to form a government to President Herzog. About 30 minutes ago Peres phoned President Hayim Herzog from the finance minister's office in Tel Aviv and thanked him for having placed his confidence in him. Peres told him that in the present balance of power, with a 60-60 tie, he could not possibly form a government based on a majority. Consequently, after coordinating the move with the incumbent parties—namely, the potential partners to a government led by him—he was handing back the mandate.

At around 2200 Peres will go to the presidential residence to confer with President Hayim Herzog privately and explain his reasons for returning the mandate.

Herzog Summons Shamir

TA2604140290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1348 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] President Hayim Herzog has invited Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to his residence tomorrow at 0930 to give him the mandate to form a government. This follows the announcement by Knesset Member Shim'on Peres, who called the president at around 1600 to thank him for having placed his confidence in him, but noting he had failed to form a government and was, therefore, returning the mandate.

Our correspondent adds Peres will confer with the president at 2200 tonight. This is a formality since, according to the law, Peres' telephone notice is sufficient.

Dispute Over East Jerusalem Settlement Continues

Shamir's Office Comments

TA2504152890 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 25 Apr 90

["Prime Minister's Office Statement on Jerusalem Old City Building"—communicated by the prime minister's media adviser in Jerusalem on 24 April]

[Text] In view of the unfounded reports concerning the building in the Old City of Jerusalem known as St. John's Hospice, we felt the need to clarify a number of matters.

The building in question is neither a church nor a holy site of any kind and is not used for religious worship. It is, rather, a building, owned by the Greek-Orthodox Patriarchate, that has served in the past as a hostel.

The building was leased from the Greek-Orthodox Church, through a foreign corporation, by a group called "Ateret Cohanim" which owns a number of buildings in the Old City of Jerusalem. In light of the complaint against the leasing agreement lodged in court by the Church, the matter of its legality is now in the hands of the legal authorities who will decide on the matter, and their decision will be honored.

"Ateret Cohanim" is a private association. The Government maintains housing assistance programs in many places (throughout) the country, not only in Jerusalem, and it is within this framework that financial assistance was granted to this association as well.

The State of Israel, in accordance with the law and accepted practice in all civilized countries, respects the churches and freedom of worship. It is our wish that many countries, especially in our region, would do so. Jerusalem is open to all, and members of all religions feel at home (in Jerusalem).

The Israeli Government does not assist and would even have prevented any action consituting an affront to places sacred to (any of) the religions or to holy sites of any kind. The matter is constitutionally guaranteed in the Basic Law: Jerusalem—Capital of Israel, which ensures the preservation of holy places, freedom of worship and respect of the sensitivities of all religions and communities. The case at hand is one of an ordinary commercial real estate transaction. Presenting the leasing as an affront to the Greek-Orthodox Church or (an infrigement of) its rights contradicts the facts.

Within the framework of Israeli law, every Jew has the right to live in Jerusalem, and has the same right as others, to acquire land, as do all Israeli citizens and members of all religions in the country.

The State of Israel has a tradition and a history of respect for and scrupulous preservation of holy sites, churches and places of worship of all religions, including the Greek Orthodox Church. It goes without saying that there neither is nor was any intention to offend Christians, and anyone who presents it as such is motivated by considerations foreign (to the matter at hand) and is interested in inflaming relations between Jews and the other communities residing in the country.

Israel rejects attempts to exploit this incident in order to tarnish its image and harm its good name in the sensitive area of attitude toward holy places. Israel will, for its part, continue to do everything (possible) for the sake of peace and tranquility between communities in the holy city.

Meridor on Funds for Sites

TA2504112390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Apr 90 p 2

[By Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] A recent cabinet committee decision to allocate NIS [new Israeli shekels] 7.5 million for purchasing properties in East Jerusalem was a deliberate political response to recent challenges abroad to Israeli sovereignty in the city, Justice Minister Dan Meridor said yesterday.

In an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST, Meridor stoutly denied any connection between the NIS 7.5m allocation and the subleasing of St. John's Hospice in the Old City's Christian Quarter.

The building has become the centre of a legal and political storm since 150 settlers took up residence there on April 11.

Meridor heads the ministerial committee which supervises the allocation of non-earmarked bequests to the state. This month the committee approved the distribution of NIS 68m. to hundreds of institutions, as well as to several individuals.

Meridor insisted in the interview that out of the NIS 68m. at the committee's disposal, funds have so far been allocated only to forestry restoration projects and the Shirutrom [IDF Radio telethon] fund, for the benefit of the army. "It will take a long time before the rest of the allocations, like the NIS 7.5m. to Himanuta, pass through the various administrative channels and reach their objective."

Himanuta, a subsidiary of the Jewish National Fund, is to purchase sites in East Jerusalem in consultation with the 'Atara Leyoshna Society and the 'Ateret Kohanim yeshiva.

Meridor noted that while the 'Atara Leyoshna association was doing a "commendable and dignified" job of restoration, 'Ateret Kohanim was a controversial group.

"The behaviour of 'Ateret Kohanim in the past has raised a number of questions," he said. "Apart from its application for ongoing operations, it sought a large direct grant for acquiring new property. We refused to approve such a direct grant and insisted that the money go to Himanuta, which would hold title, and which we could rely on to produce proper documentation for all disbursements."

Even without the controversy surrounding property purchases in the Old City, the allocation of non-earmarked bequests to the state has been controversial among particular sectors of the public because of its power to please certain interest groups. [passage omitted]

Ministry Welcomes Greek Move

TA2504113990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has noted its satisfaction and appreciation for the announcement by the Greek prime minister on de jure recognition of Israel and the intention to establish full diplomatic relations. The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem told our political correspondent Arye Golan that Israel is certain the early implementation of the Greek Government's decision will lead to the strengthening of friendly relations and cooperation between Israel and Greece.

Church Leaders Issue Statement

LD2604005890 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Greetings brothers. Here is the text of the statement by the leaders of the Christian churches and sects in occupied Jerusalem. This statement was issued in reply to the Zionist practices against the Christian shrines in the state of Palestine.

The statement says:

The Patriarches and leaders of Christian churches and sects of Jerusalem met and assessed together the reaction to the grave events that took place during the Holy Week, and the results of these events.

On the evening of Wednesday, 11 April 1990, and during the Holy Week, 150 Israeli settlers, some of them armed, occupied Mar Yuhanna Hotel in the heart of the Christian quarter. The area of the hotel is 3,000 square meters, and it is owned by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchy. This behavior by the settlers enjoyed the support of the official Israeli Government. Cabinet ministers and parliamentary authorities visited the settlers to encourage them. At the end, it was clear the Israeli Government authorities—at the highest level—interfered and put obstacles in the way of the police to stop the implementation of the legal eviction order. This incident took place as the summit of the Holy Week approached, which led to a disturbance and confusion of the most sacred rite in the Christian religion in the most holy site in the Christian world, which is the Church of the Sacred Tomb.

This behavior by the settlers, which is supported by the Israeli Government, continuously leads to violent incidents in and around the region that contains the Holy Tomb and the residence of the Church authorities. These places were desecrated and insulted by carrying arms in them. In the end, the freedom to enter the Holy Tomb and to pray there was endangered.

The behavior of these armed settlers seriously endangers the cultural and religious integration, which is based on the autonomy in the regions of the Christians, Armenians, and Muslims. It also violates the distinguished characteristics of these quarters of the Holy City, which were gained during many years, and which were respected by all those who ruled Jerusalem in the past and which are respected by the international community. More than that, this behavior endangers the existence of all the Christian sects in the Holy City.

The statement continued: We, the leaders of churches and sects, condemn without reservation the behavior of the Zionist settlers. We also strongly condemn the Israeli Government's support and encouragement to them. We demand the Israeli authorities to evict them immediately and restore the properties to their lawful owners—the Greek Orthodox Patriarchy. We also appeal to the international community, all religious churches and leaders,

and all peoples of good heart in the whole world to actively and effectively support us.

We have decided the following, and these are the words of the leaders of Jerusalem, the leaders of Christian churches and sects:
—To close the doors of all Christian shrines in Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, and everywhere in the Holy Land at 0900 on 27 April, and not to open them until the following morning;
—on the same day, throughout the country, the bells of all the churches will sound a funeral tune every hour after 0900 until the evening;
—Sunday 29 April will be a special day of prayers for the benefit of Jerusalem Christians, and we invite all brother Christian believers in the world to share these prayers with us;
—We have adopted a resolution to remain in an open session to follow up the developments of the issue.

The statement was signed on 24 April in occupied Jerusalem. It was signed by the leaders of Christian churches and sects in occupied Jerusalem.

Court Orders Eviction by 1 May

TA2604142590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Our correspondent Yaron Enosh has just now reported the Supreme Court has ordered the eviction of the Jewish settlers from the building in Jerusalem's Christian quarter by next 1 May. The court nevertheless allowed the 20 Panamanian staffers to stay in the building to see to its upkeep and security.

Groundwork on New Jerusalem Settlement Begins

TA2504111590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Groundwork on the new settlement of Alon near Kefar Adumim east of Jerusalem began this morning. Seven pre-fabs are to be set up during the day to absorb the first settler families. A Voice of Israel reporter says that Alon is not part of the coalition agreement on new settlements and was established as a new neighborhood of the village of Kefar Adumim.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 25 April adds that "the new settlement is being guarded by three Israel Defense Forces soldiers and the first families will move in tonight."]

Moscow Commercial Office 'Will Affect' Aliyah

TA2504121790 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Apr 90 p 2

[By Amir Neumann]

[Text] An Israeli commercial representation is expected to open in Moscow in a few days. The members of the delegation will bear diplomatic passports and will function as commercial attaches for all intents and purposes, although the appointment will not be official.

The final decision on the dispatch of the delegation was adopted during Monday's meeting of directors general of government ministries. DAVAR has also learned the USSR has long expressed its interest in such an Israeli representation in Moscow, and that office space in the international trade center owned by Jewish millionaire Armand Hammer has already been rented for that purpose.

The new representation naturally will deal in commercial ties between Israel and the Soviet Union, but its operations there also will affect aliyah.

Further on CSFR President Vaclav Havel's Visit

Offers To Mediate Conflict

TA2504121990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Excerpt] President Hayim Herzog hosted Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel for a luncheon and closed meeting which the foreign ministers of both countries and their ambassadors attended.

Our correspondent Nava Kohen reports President Havel proposed mediating between the conflicting sides in the Middle East if they should ask him. We have come to learn, since we know very little about the Middle East conflict, Havel said. President Herzog briefed his guest on the Middle East conflict and pointed out the peace process is making progess, although there are many obstacles in the way. He also informed the guest of the Israeli Government's position on the intifadah and presented a lecture on Israel's democratic system. [passage omitted]

Comments on Visit, 'Arafat

TA2504144590 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Apr 90 p A1

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel by Central Europe correspondent Yehuda Lahav, 'Aqiva Eldar and Gid'on Alon; in Prague "on the eve of his arrival in Israel"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Interviewed on the eve of his arrival in Israel, Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel said that "the policy of the new Czechoslovakia strives to contribute to the promotion of peace and the creation of an atmosphere of tolerance everywhere. This is the underlying reason for my visit to Israel."

Reminded that he will be the first Central European head of state to visit Israel, he commented: "I am not going to Israel in a bid to win the accolade of primacy in these areas. My visit derives from deeper reasons. The current regime in Czechoslovakia was born out of the struggle for human rights. We are trying to guarantee that these roots are manifested in our policy, which is founded on honoring human rights and the notion that

freedom and peace are indivisible. This means if a war is being waged anywhere around the globe, it in a way affects us as well; and if freedom is lacking somewhere, it is as if we, too, are not free," he said.

Regarding the Middle East conflict, Havel said he does not feel sufficiently well-versed in the region's problems to offer solutions, but added that he would, for his part, do everything in his power to promote peace in the region and strive for an end to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict so the proverbial peace and tranquility really do prevail in the country.

In reply to a question on whether, after his talks with Yasir 'Arafat, he was more optimistic than before regarding the chances for a Middle East solution, the Czechoslovak president said that no far-reaching conclusions can be drawn from just one conversation. At the same time, he said, "my impression—or so, at least, 'Arafat told me, and not only in public speeches but also during our private conversations—is that he would like Israel to adopt the Baker peace plan. The PLO leader noted several times that he is prepared for talks with any Israeli leader who is ready to talk to him, and he is interested in a peaceful resolution and in peaceful coexistence between the Israeli and the Palestinian people. I cannot, of course, judge his inner feelings or assess the sincerity of his declarations, but this is what he told me," said Havel.

He added 'Arafat never spoke about the establishment of an independent Palestinian state as the sole feasible solution. "He used the phrase "peaceful coexistence between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples" profusely. True, 'Arafat's remarks cannot be viewed as a message to anyone, but I do not think he meant these remarks only for my ears. I will try to convey his message to the Israeli leaders with the utmost accuracy, and I hope not to mispresent them. It is my impression Mr. 'Arafat pinned a great deal of hope on me, far more than I deserve. I cannot tell whether this is merely a token of generosity or a reflection of his true thoughts, but he emphasized a number of times he attaches great hope to my peace mission," Havel said. [passage omitted]

[Another interview with Havel prior to his departure for Israel, conducted by Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat in Prague for Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew, published on pages 17 and 18 in the 25 April issue, reports Havel said if another vote on Zionism and racism is conducted at the United Nations, "I can assure you my country will vote in favor of repealing this sorry resolution."]

Mediation Offer Denied

TA2604093290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Apr 90 pp 1, 10

[By diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky]

[Text] On the first day of his historic visit to Israel, Czechoslovakian President Vaclav Havel was informed by his Israeli hosts that peace blandishments made by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat recently in Prague were completely disingenuous, and 'Arafat—along with the overwhelming part of the Arab world—remains implacably hostile to Israel.

According to officials of the Prime Minister's office, despite prior reports, Havel did not offer to mediate between Israel and the PLO.

Havel, the first Eastern European leader ever to visit Israel, arrived on a state visit yesterday morning amid considerable pomp and circumstance, and was formally welcomed at the Wool Rose Garden across from the Knesset by his host, President Hayim Herzog.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, who held separate meetings with Havel, both told him that 'Arafat could not be trusted. Shamir reportedly said: "With you he talks peace, but with us he talks terror, and he practises it."

Havel, according to informed sources, did not claim that 'Arafat accepted U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's initiative for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, as had been reported earlier. Czechoslovakian officials confirmed that Havel brought no message from 'Arafat to Shamir.

'Arafat met with Havel less than two weeks ago in Prague, and reportedly urged him to relay to Israeli leaders that he sincerely seeks peace.

Arens, in his talk with the Czechoslovakian leader, reportedly linked 'Arafat with Iraqi president Saddam Husayn to illustrate that the PLO leader was not sincere about peace. Arens cited an 'Arafat statement made earlier this month in Baghdad that the intifada would be won by sticks, stones, and "al-'Abd," the ballistic missile which can deliver binary chemical weapons.

Havel reportedly asked if moderate Arab states could be enlisted to influence extremists elements, an apparent allusion to Saddam's threat to incinerate Israel. Arens replied that unfortunately the extremists set the tone, and Saddam's bellicosity won Arab support.

Czechoslovakian Foreign Minister Jeri Dienstbier told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday that his country is not trying to initiate any new peace moves. Its leaders came to Israel to learn more about the Middle East problem. "We have come here to look around, listen, and feel the air. We are not from here, and we've been away for a long time."

Havel yesterday also met with Labour Party leader Shim'on Peres, but it remains unclear what they discussed.

Earlier in the day, Havel toured the Knesset and wryly told Speaker Dov Shilansky, "I have seen films of the raucous debates in your parliament. It reminds me of some of our own meetings in Prague."

Today, Havel visits Yad Vashem and an exhibit at the Israel Museum on Czechoslovakian Jewry, receives an honorary

doctorate at Hebrew University, and opens a world Congress of Czech Jewry. He will hold a private meeting with Palestinian leaders in East Jerusalem in the afternoon.

Norway's Defense Minister Meets Defense Officials

TA2504124490 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
25 Apr 90 p 3

[By military correspondent On Levi]

[Text] Major General (reserves) David 'Ivri, Defense Ministry director general, met today [as published] with Norwegian Defense Minister Mr. Per Ditlev-Simonsen.

The Norwegian minister heard reports from the director general, senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers, and senior Defense Ministry personnel. The minister arrived yesterday on a three-day visit within the framework of his tour of Norwegian contingents in the Middle East. As part of his visit, he will meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Chief of Staff Dan Shomron. He also will tour IDF units and Israeli military industrial plants.

Iraq Could Conduct 'Simulated Nuclear Tests'

TA2604093190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
25 Apr 90 p A1

[By Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] Iraq is capable of linking up to a Cray 2 supercomputer that can carry out simulated nuclear tests and simulations of missile trajectories. The supercomputer, which the Americans did not agree to sell to Israel, was sold to Saudi Arabia and installed there on 26 January 1990. A computer communications network was recently set up between Iraq and Saudi Arabia allowing Iraq to receive sophisticated computer services without anyone knowing or being able to monitor it.

This information was discovered by researchers at the Ne'eman Institute attached to the Technion as part of their research focusing on computer developments in the Arab countries. It seems the Saudis bought the Cray 2, which they announced was meant for use by oil companies searching for underground oil sources. The computer was installed in the town of al-Zahran, but computer experts say it is not used in oil exploration, and that its main edge is in physics research. It is the only computer in the world capable of carrying out very large simulations and therefore also the only one suitable for implementing simulations of nuclear tests.

Data gathered by the researchers also show the Arab countries have made impressive advances in the teaching and use of computers, and that Israel lags behind them in several fields.

The researchers discovered that even the Technion in Haifa lags far behind developments on the Iraqi computer scene. The Iraqi computer activity is being carried out according to a detailed multiyear plan and its achievements are very impressive.

'Onus' in Hostage Affair Seen on Rafsanjani

TA2504135590 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
25 Apr 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Catch as Catch Can in Lebanon"]

[Text] Like two other U.S. hostages, Robert Polhill wa kidnapped in Beirut in January 1987. The date was n incidental or meaningless: The kidnapping took pla even as reports in Washington were touting the U.S Iranian deal involving the exchange of hostages f weapons (and the funneling of part of the money to t contras fighting against the Sandinista regime in Nicar gua). The kidnappers thus repeated what they had do before, even before the Iranian affair became publ knowledge: They replenished the stocks, as they did ea time a deal was concluded in which the Iranians ma aged to extort military equipment from the Americans exchange for Iran's noble consent to release a hostage.

The various movements carrying out the kidnapping whether for their own purposes or in the hope obtaining the release of their own men (and this catego specially suits the extremist Shiites who have been he in the Kuwaiti jail for six and a half years following leth attacks they had conducted there), share a comfortab division of labor with Tehran. Hizballah, the Islam Jihad, the Oppressed of the World, and their ilk a careful to maintain a low wholesale dosage of kidna pings, so as not to scare off the client.

Europe, and more so France, has grown accustomed the official hypocrisy of denying any connection betwe the release of a hostage and the termination of leg proceedings against a terrorist, or the lifting of a embargo on the supply of combat aircraft, as Fran showed vis-a-vis Libya just recently. The haggling wi the Americans, whose presidents are subject to t unrelenting and close scrutiny of Congress and t media, is a bit tougher, especially since George Bush hounded by the specter of his involvement in the Ira contra affair. That is why it is called a good-will gestur The Iranians use their influence to obtain the release the hostages, while the Americans, as a counter gestur express readiness to unfreeze Iranian assets.

Israel, of course, is mentioned as a deliverer of goods this deal. It is expected to release Shaykh 'Ubayd, member of Hizballah's council of terror sages (or scho ars), and also to find delicate pathways into the indepe dent heart of General Lahd, the commissioner of t al-Khiyam detention facility in southern Lebanon whe hundreds of locals are kept following dubious due pr cess. The missing link in all of this is the agreement wi those who hold the Israeli hostages captive, to make su they are released simultaneously with the freeing Shaykh 'Ubayd and the al-Khiyam inmates.

The government that sanctioned the IDF [Israel Defen Forces] operation to capture 'Ubayd in his bed a thereby launch the era of the release of hostages kn that it would expose itself to public criticism once

tradeoff was concluded that involved IDF hostages and worrying numbers of top-level terrorists. It should certainly not sin by contributing 'Ubayd to the U.S. coffers in a spate of generosity, only to help Bush obtain the release of additional U.S. hostages, without securing an immediate Israeli achievement at the same time but meanwhile granting Iran and Syria Washington's cool gratitude.

The moderate editorials in the TEHRAN TIMES urging an end to the kidnappings constitute a positive sign in the complex fabric of Iranian-U.S. relations. Yet the onus is on President Rafsanjani (with whose impersonator or double Bush held a telephone conversation earlier this year) to prove his mettle by deed or misdeed: He must not only release the hostages, but must also abstain from additional kidnappings for years.

Agreement Signed With USSR Bar Association

TA2404201590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] In Jerusalem this evening, the president of the USSR Bar Association signed an agreement on professional cooperation with its Israeli counterpart. The agreement deals with exchanges of information and delegations, friendship, and business cooperation.

Earlier, the visiting delegates conferred with Justice Minister Dan Meridor in his East Jerusalem office.

Broadcast Agency To Join Amos Satellite Project

TA2504122390 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Apr 90 p A5

[By 'Irit Rosenblum]

[Excerpts] The Israel Broadcasting Authority's [IBA] director decided yesterday to join the Israel Aircraft Industries' [IAI] Amos satellite project.

The investment of millions of shekels is involved. The IBA will be able to use the satellite to transmit television and radio broadcasts. [passage omitted]

The IBA regards participation in the Amos project an important national mission that also will provide work for the IAI. At the same time, it should be pointed out it will be three years before the satellite is expected to be launched.

In the meantime, the IBA is considering renting a satellite channel on Europe's Intelsat, with Communications Ministry approval, and only revert to the Amos in three years. The IBA consequently will have to find a way to supply or sell consumers dishes in lieu of the existing antennas.

108th Soldier Sentenced for Refusing Duty

TA2504132990 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Apr 90 p 20

[By Pe'erli Shahar]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Private Yitzhaq Shabtay (25) from Jerusalem was sentenced to 28 days in prison for refusing to serve in the Ansar-3 detention facility in Qezi'ot. The There Is A Limit movement reports that since the outbreak of the intifadah, 108 standing Army soldiers and reservists have been tried and jailed for refusing duty in the territories.

Territories' 24 Apr Incidents, Injuries Reported

TA2504121490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] An explosive device blew up last night near an outlying house on the settlement of Qatzir in the Wadi 'Ara region. No one was injured. The blast occurred as the household watched television. Police combed the area late into the night. They believe that those who planted the bomb came from northern Samaria.

The Army last night clamped a curfew on Janin following the stabbing there of a cab driver from Haifa. The driver brought a number of passengers to several neighborhoods in Janin. During the riot an argument broke out which ended with the stabbing. The attackers ran off. The driver was slightly wounded and arrived on his own for medical treatment.

At Bayt Hanina in north Jerusalem police last night used tear gas to disperse a large number of masked men holding a violent demonstration. Police arrested eight of the masked demonstrators who wielded hatchets and clubs.

A molotov cocktail was thrown last night at a No. 25 bus as it passed the French Hill intersection in Jerusalem. The bottle hit the side of the bus and ignited, but no one was hurt and no damage was caused.

[Reporting on page A2 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 25 April, Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin add that "Palestinian sources reported five locals were injured in violent clashes in the Gaza Strip yesterday. Arab sources reported on incidents in the refugee camps and in the city itself.

"A representative of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman in the Southern Command reported that no injuries were recorded in the Gaza Strip yesterday."

The correspondents also report that "the curfew on the village of Bayt Immar, near the place where an Egged bus was attacked earlier this week, remained in force today for the third consecutive day. The village of Jayyus in the Tulkarm region was placed under curfew yesterday."]

736 Palestinian Fatalities Counted in Intifadah

TA2504144790 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 25 Apr 90 p 5

[By Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 23 April, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported 575 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. The figure includes only those killed by soldiers' gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian fatalities is 736.

On the other hand, the Palestinian Data Center for Human Rights reports 893 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:

—648 fatalities from IDF soldiers' and settlers' gunfire.
—84 fatalities from asphyxiation.
—57 fatalities from beatings and electrocution.
—104 fatalities from other causes.

Officials Condemn U.S. House Jerusalem Vote

JN2504144790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] The resolution adopted last night by the U.S. House of Representatives endorsing a U.S. Senate resolution recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel has elicited angry reactions on the Arab and Islamic scenes.

The resolution was viewed as one that contravenes the international resolutions and norms that consider Jerusalem as an indivisible part of the occupied Palestinian territories.

House of Representatives Speaker Sulayman 'Arar expressed his condemnation of and amazement at the U.S. House resolution recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. He said: We never before have seen a certain country's parliament pass a resolution endorsing the capital of another country, as well as the boundaries of its capital. He indicated the resolution runs against the declared policy of the U.S. Administration on Arab Jerusalem, which is considered by international charters as part of the Arab territories occupied in 1967. He affirmed the resolution in no way will help achieve peace. He added this resolution will escalate the regional conflict, noting that peace cannot be built on half-baked resolutions that violate international charters and norms.

Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said: This resolution is based on fallacies created by Israeli and Zionist quarters. Such a resolution, even though it is not binding on the U.S. Administration, justifies and legitimizes continued Israeli aggressions. He added: Jerusalem is part of the occupied Arab territories. According to the new geographic definition, it constitutes approximately 30 percent of the lands of the West Bank. This means Israel's annexation of this city will result in an encroachment on Arab rights, Arab lands, and the Arab people. Besides, the aforesaid resolution has been adopted when the U.S. Administration is leading a peace process through an Israeli-U.S.-Egyptian dialogue designed to launch Palestinian-Israeli talks based on negotiations to implement Resolutions Nos. 242 and 338, which stipulate it is inadmissible to occupy lands with the use of force, and which also provide for an Israeli troop withdrawal from the territories Israel occupied in 1967. This is an obstructive resolution that negatively affects the U.S. Administration's efforts to bring about a comprehensive peace based on the convening of an international peace conference.

Al-Qasim stated this resolution, adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, would encourage Israel to forge ahead in its aggressions and expand at the expense of the Arab individual and Arab lands. He added there must be a comprehensive way of tackling the issue of immigration and settlement through the convening of an Arab summit.

'Reformist' Bloc Formed Within Labor Federation

JN2404100990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Apr 90 pp 1, 5

[By Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—The formation of a "reformist" bloc within the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions (FJLU) was announced Monday afternoon subsequent to the withdrawal Sunday of 10 member unions from the 217-member organisation's election of its executive committee.

The birth of the Democratic Unionist Bloc was announced by Haydar Rashid, president of the Banking, Insurance and Accounting Employees Association, at its headquarters in Jabal Husayn Monday afternoon.

"We are forming this bloc in protest [of] the excesses and violations of the statutes of the federation by the executive committee and its encroachment on the authority of the 95-member central council," Rashid told union members and journalists attending the press conference.

Rashid contended that the 14-member executive committee and the make-up of the central council were "unrepresentative" of Jordanian workers and that the course of action that the present executive committee plans to take does not reflect the "will of the Jordanian workers."

Rashid said that a 10-member committee, representing the 10 unions that refused to take part in Sunday night's elections, would lead the bloc in the federation's discussions and deliberations. He named himself and Khalil abu-Khurmah, president of the Public Service Union, as president and vice president of the bloc. The other eight members all currently hold the post of president of their respective unions.

A memorandum announcing the formation of the bloc outlined the bloc's main demands for change and reform in the FJLU.

The memo:

—Contested the legality of the present executive committee and declared all decisions taken by its as null and void;

—Called for freezing the membership of the present leadership of the federation in all local, pan-Arab and international organisations and forums;

—Called for freezing all funds of the federation because the bloc is contesting the committee's handling of its finances;

—Called for an immediate investigation into the committee's dealings, financial and otherwise.

—Called on the members of the federation who have not violated the labour law to serve as a caretaker committee which would supervise and monitor the "transitional" period pending reform.

The bloc also annouced that it was not the equivalent of a "dissenting" movement and "does not reflect differences in political currents within the federation or unions."

"We are concerned with principles not politics," said Rashid. "Incorrect and irresponsible practices and excesses have characterised this federation for too long. It must now live up to the democratic standards being set in the rest of the country and shape up," he added.

The federation was formed in 1952 and grew to represent up to 22 labour and trade unions in Jordan by 1976. A change in the labour law in 1976 forcibly caused the merger of several unions and since then the federation has had 17 members.

Long-time union members claim that the merger was instigated by the minister of labour at the time in order to quell the growing power of union members. Unions and professional associations have served as an unofficial and sometimes underground platform for banned political parties and activists since 1957.

While three unions have historically been dominated by politically active unionists (mostly leftists), observers say that the federation has been run by unionists close to the "security apparatus and the Muslim Brotherhood movement for the last three decades."

Some union members attending Monday's press conference said they saw the announced leadership of the new bloc was only slightly more democratic than the federation's executive committee and that the reforms had to go much further than the memo indicated. But others disagreed.

"We have been suffering for a long time." said one union member who has affiliations with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—Jordanian chapter. "We must now collaborate within the federation to create a new infrastructure and strengthen our links with the Ministry of Labour of change some of the labour law provisions which are totally out of touch with equality and democracy," he said.

Abu-Khurmah, the bloc's vice president, was attacked by unionists in the audience for his participation in the federation's previous executive committee and was asked to answer some of the accusations of mismanagement. Abu-Khurmah pointed out that "in the age of democracy rules have changed" and that "what we are asking for is the opening of all books; may they be financial accounts or the figures for the actual number of members in each union."

In a memorandum in which the 10 union presidents announced their boycott of Sunday's elections, they cited article 32 of the labour law as a legal obstacle to the election. "The law clearly states that all trade unions' books must be examined and their contents known before any election of the executive committee can take place. That did not happen. Therefore the elections are null and void before they even began," Rashid said.

The composition of the new bloc is a mixture of unionists close to the Communist Party, some very "establishment" unionists and one Islamist.

Asked if the political character of the bloc was desirable, one unionist, who like most of the politically active unionists in Jordan has had more left and pan-Arab leanings, said he welcomed the mixture.

"Our aim is reform here above everything else and having people of politically different shades actually adds to the movement's credibility," he said. "Leftists, traditionalists and Islamists have joined forces to ask for labour law reforms and more rights for workers; it's a first," he said.

The bloc's leadership has contacted parliamentarians belonging to the Lower House's Democratic Bloc and are expected to meet with the minister of labour Tuesday to discuss the situation.

'Text' of Islamic Jihad Movement Warning to U.S.

NC2604090890 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 25 Apr 90 pp 1, 7

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement—Bayt al-Maqdis has threatened to attack "every American inside or outside the Islamic countries" unless the U.S. Senate revokes its decision to regard Jerusalem as the capital of Israel "within 10 days."

AL-NAHAR received a typewritten statement by the movement at 1700 yesterday. The statement carries a handwritten date of 24 April 1990 at the bottom. The text of the statement follows:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. In the name of God; "God is great."

Warning by the Islamic Jihad Movement (Bayt al-Maqdis).

The aid and support that the United States has been extending to the Zionist entity on all levels since its establishment are no secret to anyone. At the same time, the United States enjoys cordial relations with most governments of the Islamic and Arab countries. This has increased its arrogance and indifference to the Islamic nation to the point where the U.S. Senate has adopted a resolution considering "Bayt al-Maqdis," the first of the two Qiblahs [the direction to which Muslims turn in prayer], the location of the third holy shrine [al-Aqsa Mosque], and the scene of our great prophet's night journey, as the eternal capital of Israel. In so doing, the U.S. Senate has disregarded all moral, human, and spiritual values and encouraged the Zionists openly and in broad daylight to seize a building belonging to the Palestinian Greek Orthodox community as a step to be followed by others.

Therefore, we in the Islamic Jihad Movement (Bayt al-Maqdis) announce the following:

Either the U.S. Senate revokes its decision within 10 days from this date, or every American inside or outside the Islamic countries will be considered a target for attack and revenge. He who forewarns is excused.

[Signed] The Islamic Jihad Movement

Bayt al-Maqdis

24 April 1990

It should be recalled that the fundamentalist movement leader Shaykh As'ad al-Tamimi, who resides in Amman, told REUTER earlier this month that he had established the movement in 1980, and that he added "Bayt al-Maqdis" to the name to differentiate between it and other organizations with the same name. He explained that the objective of his organization is to fight the Jews until they are driven out of "our land" and that force and arms are the way to do that.

The movement has declared its responsibility for several attacks against Israelis, including the attack on a bus on the Tel Aviv- Jerusalem road last July in which 14 people were killed and 27 others were wounded.

Shiite Leader Opposes Release of U.S. Hostages

AU2504210790 Paris AFP in English 1804 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Ba'labakk, Lebanon, April 25 (AFP)—Hopes for the imminent release of more Western hostages dimmed Wednesday as a senior Shi'ite leader accused the United States of bad faith and urged Lebanese kidnappers to hold on to their captives. Husayn al-Musawi, who heads the fundamentalist movement Islamic- Amal, part of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah movement, denounced the approval Tuesday of a U.S. House of Representatives resolution naming Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

"The United States responded to a gesture of goodwill, the release of Robert Polhill, by showing proof of its bad faith at the highest level," Mr. al-Musawi told the press here, referring to the non-binding resolution. "I would hope that the groups holding hostages, if they are true revolutionaries, would not release any more of them," he added. [passage omitted]

"There is an escalation on the part of the Americans and it is normal that this affects the hostage situation. I don't believe things will happen as expected," Mr. al-Musawi said in this Hezbollah stronghold in central Lebanon. "Moslems offer concessions and get stones thrown at them in return." [passage omitted]

Mr. al-Musawi denies any links to hostage-takers, most of whom are believed to be pro-Iranian Shi'ite fundamentalists, but he is considered close to Syria, which was instrumental in securing Mr. Polhill's release.

Mr. al-Musawi added Wednesday that the demands of groups still holding 16 Westerners, including seven Americans, in Lebanon "must be met, notably the release of prisoners in Israel and other places." He said the United States should not only "put pressure on Israel, but also on Saudi Arabia and Kuwait." Some hostage-takers have demanded the release of pro-Iranian Shi'ite fundamentalists held in Kuwait since 1983. [passage omitted]

In southern Lebanon there had earlier been indications that the six-month ordeal of two Swiss representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Elio Erriquez and Emanuel Christen, was nearing an end. The two men, whose kidnapping last October 6 near the southern Lebanese port of Sidon remains unclaimed, were named by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in his appeal Sunday. Soon afterwards, Moustapha Saad, head of the Sunni Moslem militia controlling Sidon, and Zayd Wahbah, a senior official with the Palestine Liberation Organization, said they were working to secure their release.

An ICRC official, Marjolaine Martin, arrived Wednesday in Beirut, expressing guarded optimism. "We have no tangible sign of an imminent release," she said.

Radio Reports Statement

NC2504170090 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1545 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, today asked groups holding Westerners in Lebanon not to release any hostage on account of the bad faith illustrated by the United States.

He said he hopes that the groups holding the hostages will not free any of them. He added that the United States responded to the goodwill gesture of releasing Robert Polhill with a token of bad faith at the highest level, when the U.S. House of Representatives yesterday adopted a resolution considering Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Fadlallah: U.S. Continues Lebanon Crisis

NC2604084590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has criticized the arrogants' media, which are trying to blame us for their problems because we want freedom and dignity for ourselves. In his 'Id al-Fitr sermon delivered from the pulpit of the Imam Rida Mosque in Bi'r al-'Abd [in Beirut's southern suburb] today, Ayatollah Fadlallah expressed surprise at that the world considers the Palestinians' demand to return to their villages and lands as unrealistic while the world is filling Palestine with Jews and is thinking how to relocate the Palestinians in the Arab countries.

Fadlallah criticized the United States who in practice is trying to complicate the Palestinian question while pretending that it wants to resolve it. The United States is also playing a dual game in Lebanon so that Lebanon will serve its interests in the future. It wants to save the political situation in Lebanon so that no one will object to its policy there.

Fadlallah held the United States responsible for the continuation of the crisis in Lebanon. He said that what is taking place is just a mirage and that the United States wants the Lebanese fire and smoke to conceal its plans and solutions for the region. He also held the United States responsible for any discord between the Sunni and Shiite Muslims because the United States does not want the region to have any dignity and wants to use the area's resources according to its whims.

Fadlallah called for non-respect of the security of the arrogants if they do not respect our security and freedom. He said: What entitles them to demand the release of their hostages when they do not demand the release of our detainees in the occupation's prisons in Palestine and Lebanon?

He expressed surprise that the world supports Eastern European Jews' demands for freedom and self-determination while this right is not given to the Palestinian people.

Fadlallah called for the closure of the war file in Iqlim al-Tuffah, East Beirut, and West Beirut so that all refugees can return to their homes. He drew attention to the fact that crucial and grave events are awaiting us in the future.

Jabal Amel Urges Release of Muslim Hostages

LD2504173390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Lebanon's Society of Jabal Amel ulema called for the release of all Muslim hostages held in the Zionist and Maronite forces' detention centers. The group, issuing a statement, stressed that at a time when much is being said about the release of Western hostages, nothing is being said about the release of Muslim hostages, including nationals of Lebanon, Palestine, and Iran. The society of Jabal Amel ulema has stressed: We invite all to consider the lives of kidnapped Muslims, such as Shaykh 'Ubayd, who are under detention by the Maronite forces of the Zionist regime and the hirelings of Antoine Lahad.

Iranian Diplomats Kidnapped in 1982 Said Killed

PM2504153090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Apr 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed diplomatic sources in Beirut have given AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT details of the story of the four Iranian diplomats kidnapped in the eastern area in 1982 during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. They said that investigations carried out by various bodies confirm the killing of the diplomats—of whom there has been no trace since 1985—specifically, some time between 12 March 1985 and 15 January 1986.

These sources questioned the sources of the information which Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said confirmed that they were still alive.

The sources told the story of the Iranian diplomats as follows: In 1988 a British Foreign Office envoy went to Cyprus with the task of reactivating the issue of the release of Western hostages and attempting to examine the possibility of a deal that would at the same time guarantee the release of the Iranian diplomats.

At the same time, former British Ambassador to Beirut John Gray held contacts with the Lebanese Forces leadership headed by Dr. Samir Ja'ja' and asked the leadership to make efforts to find out what had happened to the Iranians. During the same period the Lebanese Forces leadership was also contacted by former U.S. Ambassador in Beirut John Kelly, who also hoped that the discovery of the Iranian diplomats would open the way for a large-scale exchange operation.

The British side told the Lebanese Forces that the matter was not confined solely to the release of British hostage Terry Waite but could open the way to the final closure of the hostages file.

The sources say that the Lebanese Forces leadership then carried out investigations, the results of which were leaked to the Western circles concerned, as follows:

The Iranian diplomats, who had left West Beirut, were kidnapped at a Lebanese Forces checkpoint in al-Barbara in the north of the eastern area. They were held in a prison there for three weeks and were then sent to the Lebanese Forces headquarters in al-Karantina, which was under the command of Engineer Fadi Aram. They were then handed over to the central security organ, which was at the time headed by Elie Hubayqah.

The security organ subjected the diplomats to lengthy interrogation and then ordered their transfer to prison.

In 1984 Dr. Fu'ad Abi-Nadir, nephew of former President Amin al-Jumayyil, assumed leadership of the Lebanese Forces. The diplomats were still held by the security organ. On 12 March 1985 Samir Ja'ja' and Elie Hubayqah carried out a coup against Abi-Nadir, resulting in his dismissal and in Hubayqah's assuming the chairmanship of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee. The diplomats were alive then.

On 15 January Ja'ja' carried out a coup against Hubayqah, resulting in the latter's dismissal.

When the new leadership assumed its duties no trace could be found of the Iranians in the Lebanese Forces prisons and the leadership was unable to obtain any information about the circumstances of their "disappearance," because before leaving the Lebanese Forces headquarters Hubayqah's supporters destroyed all the security documents and archives, including the record of the Iranian diplomats' interrogation. According to some versions of events originating from the Lebanese Forces, the diplomats were probably killed "either on the basis of a decision that ignored the importance of the hostages card or as a way out of the pressures that were being exerted at the time by several parties who wanted the hostages to be handed over to them."

Because there was no conclusive evidence that the diplomats were killed—such as the discovery of their bodies or of clear orders for their elimination—three assumptions were made at the time: The first was that they were handed over to Israel, through it later transpired that that did not happen, because if Israel had held them it would have used them for the release of its captured pilot. The second was that they were handed over to Syria in the course of the contacts carried out before the "tripartite agreement was signed," but that was not the case, because Damascus maintained strong relations with Tehran and would naturally have handed them over. The third is that they were handed over to Iraq, but that did not happen, either, because the Lebanese Forces were not on good terms with Baghdad at the time.

The sources confirmed that since 1985 there has been no indication that the Iranian diplomats were alive, and that most of the evidence indicates that they were probably killed in 1985.

The sources say that top-secret investigations carried out by the Lebanese official security organs confirmed that the Iranian diplomats were killed, but they pointed out that one night they were involved in a violent confrontation with their guards and that one of the guards, fearing that the incident was a preparation for escape, opened fire, killing one of them. The investigations indicate that the death of one of the hostages embarrassed the kidnappers, who decided to dispose of the rest and close the file once and for all.

Ja'ja' Forces: 'No Information' on Iranians

LD2504115590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, following the insistence of Mr. Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, that the four Iranian hostages are still alive, AFP has reported the paramilitary forces under the command of Samir Ja'ja' announced yesterday they have no information regarding the four Iranian hostages who were kidnapped in Lebanon in 1982 and whose release Iran is demanding. According to this report, a responsible official of the paramilitary forces under the command of Ja'ja' said Elie Hubaiqa, who had responsibility for the security services of the paramilitary forces when the four Iranians were kidnapped, may be able to provide some information about their fate.

In answer to a question put to him by AFP on this issue, Elie Hubaiqa said the four Iranians were kidnapped in Bir Bara' post, and at that time that post was under the command of forces affiliated to Ja'ja', in the north of the Christian area of Beirut. Huabaiqa added that Ja'ja's forces, his security forces, and his prisons are situated in that area.

Iraqis, Palestinians Mediate Between 'Awn, Ja'ja'

NC2504144290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Iraqi and Palestinian intervention in the eastern area is continuing, in disregard of the legitimate authorities. Informed sources have disclosed that an Iraqi delegation is currently in the eastern area and is shuttling between 'Awn and Ja'ja', with whom it has met twice. The delegation invited the Lebanese Forces and 'Awn or a representative of his to visit Iraq. The sources explained that the aim of the Iraqi delegation's visit, which comes after Iraqi Charge d'Affaires Sabbar al-Hudaythi held talks with both parties, is to stop the bloodshed and seek a political formula that the combatants can accept, according to which solutions may be discussed with the legitimate authorities.

The sources also said that Kamal Midhat, a personal envoy of Yasir 'Arafat, who is still in the (Comfort) Hotel in the al- Hazimiyah area, is holding consultations with both parties. The sources added that the goal of these consultations is similar to those undertaken by the Iraqis. It has been learned that 'Arafat has given Michel 'Awn financial aid worth $15 million.

Al-Hirawi Discusses Lebanese Conflict

PM2504103090 Paris LE MONDE in French 25 Apr 90 p 8

[Interview with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi by Lucien George in Beirut—date not given]

[Text] Beirut—[George] Despite the slaughter and devastation it has caused, the war between the Christians has had two politically positive results: Many Christians have returned to their home regions or have rediscovered the Muslim regions which they had fled, and almost all the Lebanese have returned to the legality which you embody. You have become a refuge. How do you intend to use this situation which is exceptional and, in a way, unexpected, to establish and extend the state's power?

[Al-Hirawi] The current events prove the failure of the idea of self-government and independent security. The Christians have realized an autonomous canton would lead inevitably to a dictatorship of which General 'Awn has given them a foretaste; the Maronite patriarch, the deputies, the press, the political parties, and the civil servants know that well, because they have endured it.

All the Lebanese—the Christians who lived through the tragedy, but also the Muslims who observed it—thus realized legality was their only refuge. My position and my policy are strengthened by that. To restore and extend the state's power, we need to implement the al-Ta'if agreement—a compromise supported by all the Lebanese factions aside from Gen. 'Awn.

[George] Do you think Samir Ja'ja', the leader of the Lebanese Forces, has clearly supported that agreement?

[Al-Hirawi] Yes. He said that clearly after his meeting with Mr. Ibrahimi, the Arab committee's envoy, explaining that the al-Ta'if agreement was "the only effective framework" for settling the Lebanese problem. The state's power could only be restored through this national agreement, and the time "gained" by Gen. 'Awn in preventing its implementation is time lost for Lebanon and the Lebanese, particularly for the Christians who need to overcome the ridiculous state of war in which he has plunged them for more than a year.

[George] In the practical sphere, how will you and can you respond to the offer made by Mr. Ja'ja'?

[Al-Hirawi] The legal authorities could not reject such an offer. Consequently, the interior minister visited Juniyah to resume public administration and the cabinet appointed General Hayik, an officer, to take charge of the barracks being offered to us. He is already working in the area, and General Lahhud, commander-in-chief of the legal Army, will go there himself shortly. We are not sending our Army to become embroiled in the fighting between the Lebanese Forces and 'Awn. But an officer must take control of the soldiers scattered throughout the regions where there is fighting and bring them back into the legal forces.

[George] However, Mr. Ja'ja' has said his Lebanese Forces must continue to be an autonomous military force.

[Al-Hirawi] The dissolution of the militias relates to them all, as stipulated in the al-Ta'if agreement.

[George] What are you proposing to Gen. 'Awn to enable him to clear the way?

[Al-Hirawi] That he should restore to the legal authorities what is rightfully theirs. I have nothing else to propose to him other than handing over power to his successor as Army commander. The more rapidly he does that, the more he will save the remnants of the Army core which he controls and about which he says he is concerned. Gen. 'Awn should assess his war himself and compare his slogans with his results: What goal, however noble, justified so much destruction? When he has stopped usurping the seat of power, he will be free to wage his political campaign: Let the one who truly represents the people win.

[George] If that happened, would you return to B'abda?

[Al-Hirawi] Places like B'abda are merely symbols. In this case, the return to that place will represent the end of a usurpation. After that, the government will work from wherever the president, the government, and the assembly are.

[George] Let us be more specific: you are said to be considering bringing the presidential residence back to Beirut itself, if possible between the two sectors, once you have made a symbolic return to B'abda.

[Al-Hirawi] Let us not look too far ahead. It will all depend on the financial resources for building a new presidential palace. I am president wherever I am, in B'abda or elsewhere.

[George] Will the Lebanese Forces have a place in your government, on the same basis as Mr. Junblatt and Mr. Birri?

[Al-Hirawi] Any political force which proclaims its support for the al-Ta'if agreement has a place in Lebanese political life, and nothing prevents it participating in government.

[George] You are now avoiding any haste, although you have cards in your hand—primarily this virtually unanimous appeal for legality—whereas immediately after your election you seemed so anxious to return to

B'abda.... That enabled Gen. 'Awn to stir up the popular phenomenon we saw. Why have you suddenly become so cautious?

[Al-Hirawi] The election of a president necessarily implied adopting a stance toward a usurper: It was my duty to order Gen. 'Awn to leave B'abda. Did that lead to the popular phenomenon which we witnessed? I regret to say the population was manipulated by the general long before my election and he used and misused the people's support.

The main thing is that, as a result of the war which is tearing apart the Christian sector and which is the inevitable result of the exacerbation of so many strong feelings, people are gradually waking up and realizing 'Awn is leading them to disaster, through personal ambition and calculation.

People have said I was imprudent. I tend to be cautious and, in any case, peace-loving, because I am the president of all the Lebanese, including those in opposition.

[George] What is Syria's real position on the use of the current events? In other words, what are you asking of the Syrians and what are they giving you?

[Al-Hirawi] When I made an official visit to Damascus, President Al-Asad stated categorically: "Our support for the al-Ta'if agreement must not be doubted," he said. I do not doubt it. Why question the Syrians' intentions in this way? I have a tool— the al-Ta'if agreement; I have a refuge—the Arab tripartite committee; and I have the word of a man—President Al-Asad. Through an agreement with the Syrians, I think I can reach results which successive, futile wars have failed to procure.

[George] But it is well known Syria has supplied fuel and munitions to Gen. 'Awn when you regard him as the main obstacle to the installation of your government and the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreements.

[Al-Hirawi] Ask Gen. 'Awn why he is sending envoys to the Syrians and what he gets from them after launching a so-called "liberation war" against them last year.

[George] Does the position of the Arabs, especially the tripartite committee, assure you of adequate cover for your action, particularly in responding to the Lebanese Forces' advances?

[Al-Hirawi] Can you doubt it? Could Mr. Ibrahimi's mission and the way in which it was carried out—notably his visit to Mr. Ja'ja'—be more explicit? The Arab committee wanted to make it clear it was necessary to go forward with Mr. Ja'ja' because, like me, he thinks anyone who rallies to al-Ta'if is welcome.

[George] Even the general? If he said "yes" to al-Ta'if, it would upset many things.

[Al-Hirawi] We constantly say if the general is realistic enough, he will come round to al-Ta'if. If he really represents a group of people, that group will assure him of his political position.

[George] You have sometimes criticized France's action in Lebanon. Have things undergone a positive development since then, and on what basis?

[Al-Hirawi] Our historical and cultural links, our common heritage of attachment to freedom and democracy are well known. France has always been a friendly nation for us, and it is on that basis that this Lebanon demands—and I stress the word—a firm attitude in the defense of its rights.

That is why we were disappointed and surprised by the attitude adopted by some prominent people who, misled by demagogic propaganda and disregarding history, geography, and the Lebanese social and political realities, demonstrated their support not for the legal authorities—as their government did—but for a rebel. Do those prominent people now realize where their attitude has led us, are they aware of the disaster which they have helped to cause?

That has nothing to do with the various facets of the French Government in Paris and Beirut, whose behavior has been positive toward the legal Lebanese authorities.

Israeli Warplanes Overfly Western al-Biqa'

NC2504201890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over western al-Biqa' at 2030 today. This was preceded by Israeli helicopter sorties over Sidon, following the staging of mock raids on the area this morning.

Israeli Warplanes Conduct Flights Over Sidon

NC2604082490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] At 0800 today, Israeli warplanes made frequent flights over Sidon and other southern areas and repeatedly staged mock raids.

Two Lebanese Forces Gunboats Destroyed at Port

NC2504120290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Sources in the Lebanese Forces say General Michel 'Awn has sent a warning to Juniyah Port officials and to travelers on the ship Victoria expected to sail between 1400 and 1700 today. The sources reported that 'Awn threatened to shell Juniyah, its port, and the Victoria if the ship (Denis) detained by the Lebanese Forces is not released.

The sources explained that Abbot Bulus Nu'man conveyed 'Awn's warning to Samir Ja'ja'.

A short while ago, we learned that two Lebanese Forces gunboats were destroyed by the concerted shelling of Juniyah Port at 1300 today.

Lebanese Forces Deny Gunboats Hit in 25 Apr Shelling

NC2604104290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] In a statement to the newspaper AL-NAHAR, Lebanese Forces sources denied that any of the Forces' gunboats were hit during yesterday's shelling. AL-NAHAR cites the Lebanese Forces sources as saying that the current security flareup is a result of General 'Awn's attempt to open a new sea port and of his attempt to divide the eastern area into two areas and to consolidate the status quo.

The Lebanese Forces sources said: We detained the ship to show that we reject the consolidation of the status quo because we cannot accept two eastern areas and because we reject the partition of Lebanon. The consolidation of the status quo means the continuation of the war in the eastern area and consequenlty in Lebanon. We have acted to prevent the opening of an illegal port. We tell Major General Edgar Ma'luf that we do not recognize his legality and hence all his decisions are illegal.

The Lebanese Forces sources further said: Gen. 'Awn answered our decision to prevent the opening of a new port by opening fire and shelling vital installations on the Kasrawan coast. Our reply was harsher and more comprehensive in order to confirm our stand rejecting the opening of this port. If Gen. 'Awn wants to escalate, we will escalate, but we will not renege on our decision to close the port, which he wants to open.

The Lebanese Forces sources noted that Gen. 'Awn controls a certain area and is no longer capable of turning the balance of power in his favor. Therefore, he wants to entrench in his area. He believes he needs a sea outlet for economic and financial reasons. In the past he tried to control a certain port but failed. Now he wants to open two ports—the first commercial in the al- Dubayyah and the second for passengers in the Golden Beach.

The Lebanese Forces sources denied that they have received any warning from Gen. 'Awn regarding the ship they are detaining. They accused the army of shelling West Beirut with an artillery piece in Rumyah.

Lebanese Forces Deny 'Rumors' Boat Shelled

NC2604112490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Forces Information Department on 26 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Citing REUTER, certain media reported this morning that a boat carrying the commander of the Lebanese Forces was hit during yesterday's shelling. This report is untrue and is part of the hostile campaign of General Michel 'Awn and his media against the commander of the Lebanese Forces.

The Information Department categorically denies this report and emphasizes that no boat belonging to the Lebanese Forces was hit. Consequently, the department requests the media, particularly REUTER, which is known for its credibility, to verify the authenticity of the rumormongers in order not to be victimized by the misinformation practiced by 'Awn's group.

More Shelling in East Beirut, Kasrawan Reported

NC2504130290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The security situation flared up at 1230, when 'Awn's group began a concentrated bombardment of al-Qalay'at, Wata al-Jawz, and 'Ajaltun with 155- and 130-mm shells. As of 1400, Beirut Harbor and al-Jummayzah came under shelling. Several shells fell on West Beirut. [passage omitted]

We have just received a report saying the upper and central Kasrawan areas are coming under fierce and concerntrated fire from 155-mm and 130-mm artillery guns in 'Awn's positions in upper and central al-Matn.

The Lebanese Forces artillery responded to the shelling, silencing some of 'Awn's rocket launchers. The Lebanese Forces destroyed one of 'Awn's rocket launchers in Bsalim and damaged another in al-Fanar.

Eastern Area Update; Cease-Fire Reached

NC2504160690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 Apr GMT 90

[Excerpts] A cease-fire agreement announced at 1515 today has not yet curbed the 'Awn group's new round of shelling that began at approximately 1130.

According to the latest security reports, the Kasrawan coast and central and upper Kasrawan areas are still coming under artillery bombardment, which was stepped up at 1600. The shelling has extended as far as Futuh Kasrawan, Nahr Ibrahim, and the Jubayl coast.

Meanwhile, attacks on Beirut intensified this afternoon, especially in the Beirut Harbor vicinity, al-Jummayzah, al- Ashrafiyah, al-Suyufi, al-Karantina, al-Dawrah, and Sinn al-Fil. These areas were shelled from tanks positioned in Hursh Thabit and by 130-mm artillery in Mont La Salle. In the bombardment 'Awn's gunmen are using incendiary phosphorous shells as well as 155-mm and 120-mm rounds.

As a result of the shelling of Jubayl coast and Nahr Ibrahim, an unidentified citizen was killed and three others—Butrus Mas'ud, Sim'an Khalil, and Sami Badawi—were injured and taken to Sayyidat al-Ma'unat Hospital. They were discharged after treatment. [passage omitted]

West Beirut media sources have reported that the Wadi Abu-Jamil area has been coming under intermittent shelling since 1500, adding that a shell fell on Shatila traffic circle at noon, killing two persons. The sources said that the shelling also affected Zuqaq al-Balat, Ra's al-Nab', Normandie, and the Bi'r Hasan vicinity.

A responsible source in the Amal Movement has announced that the shelling of Zuqaq al-Balat killed Jamal Zahr al-Din and Rabi' Mallah, two Amal Movement members, and wounded four girls. [passage omitted]

It seems we have some new information from the newsdesk: After consultations undertaken by the security committee and Abbot Bulus Nu'man, a cease-fire agreement has been reached, which is to go into effect at 1715. The Lebanese Forces have announced they will fully abide by the cease-fire.

Cease-Fire Reportedly Holding; Casualties Updated

NC2504190890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Excerpts] After the painful blows dealt to his armed centers, the liberation decisionmaker ['Awn] has finally accepted the cease-fire agreement worked out at 1715 today. Guarded calm currently prevails in all areas that were the target of cluster and phosphorous bombs and 240- and 155-mm shells originating from the emplacements of 'Awn's gunmen in northern al-Matn. [passage omitted]

According to AFP, an initial casualty count shows that 15 people were killed and 20 injured in the eastern area today.

Shells Fall on Sidon; Clashes on Kafr Falus Front

NC2604072190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Violent clashes involving various kinds of weapons have been taking place on the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir front since dawn today. The fighting is between the Islamic and national forces, and the forces of agent Antoine Lahd.

A number of shells fell on Sidon this morning.

Amal Gunmen Kill Hizballah Member, Wound Another

NC2604074490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Amal gunmen infiltrated the village of Zillayah last night and ambushed two Hizballah members, who were returning from the mosque to their homes. The Amal gunmen opened fire, martyring struggler Husayn Musa and wounding the other. [pasage omitted]

Hizballah Blames Amal

NC2604110290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Hizballah has issued a statement regarding the security incident in Western al-Biqa' yesterday. The statement says: An Amal Movement group led by Samir 'Aql laid an ambush in Libbaya and fired at Hizballah elements, killing Husayn Musa and injuring 'Abbas al-Khatinb. The statement adds that a security problem then occurred between the Hizballah elements and members of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, that there were no casualties, and that the problem was resolved.

Hizballah Member Killed in Clash With Syrians

NC2604092190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] According to a report from al-Biqa', a clash has taken place in Libbaya between Hizballah and Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] elements. The clash left one Hizballah member dead and one SSNP member wounded.

'Awn Radio Says Booby-Trapped Car Dismantled

NC2504125490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] 'Awn's radio reported at noon today that in Sadd al- Bawshariyah, a military expert dismantled a booby-trapped car rigged with 60 kg of TNT. The radio did not provide any other information about the type of the car or when it was discovered.

Al-Asad Allegedly Involved in Lebanon Drug Trade

TA2604093990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Apr 90 p 1

[Report by Yoram Bar]

[Text] Direct involvement by top Syrian leaders, including President Hafiz al-Asad, has escalated the trade in hard drugs in Lebanon and made it the cocaine capital of the Middle East, according to Israeli police officials.

The top brass in Syria has long been involved in drug trafficking in Lebanon's al-Biqa' Valley, said 'Uzi Berger, chief of the police Criminal Investigation Department.

"Drug barons in Syrian army uniforms are accumulating enormous sums of money and power. They initially functioned as tax collectors for every drug deal that was made, but now they sponsor the deals themselves," a police source said.

Talking to Cyprus-based narcotic agents from 10 countries, now visiting Israel, Berger said that al-Asad must be persuaded through diplomatic efforts to terminate his involvement in the trade of illegal drugs.

Berger would not say if the "officials" are members of the Syrian cabinet, but a narcotic agent based in Larnaca told THE POST that according to reliable sources, "more than one Syrian minister is involved."

Al-Asad To Visit USSR in April

JN2504125690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] At the official invitation of USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, President Hafiz al-Asad will pay a working visit to the Soviet Union at the end of April.

U.S. House Resolution on Jerusalem Condemned

JN2604072890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] In Damascus, an official source made this statement: Following last month's condemned U.S. Senate resolution acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, today's resolution by the U.S. House of Representatives underlines persistent defiance of Arab and Muslim sentiments and is an assault on their rights that lacks any legal or historical justification.

While condemning again this arbitrary resolution and considering it to be no different from the old-fashioned resolutions of the mandate authorities, Syria calls upon Arab and Muslim countries to denounce the resolution and try to nullify it before it becomes official U.S. policy through Zionist lobby pressure.

'Just Punishment' Said Awaiting Iraq's Saddam

JN2504202790 Damascus Voice of Iraq in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] [passage indistinct] What does this phenomenon noted by the tyrant mean? Does it not mean that military discipline is eroding and abidance by military rules have weakened? This is a natural outcome of the years of the (?disastrous) war, its consequences, evil results, pains, and catastrophes; the tension and oppression that accompanied that war; and the irresponsible and rebellious reactions that resulted from the continuation of the mad and rabid war, the increasing number of its victims, and the domination of its destruction.

Instead of blaming and trying himself for the massacres and loathsome acts he committed in this disgusting, disastrous war as well as for its negative, miserable, regrettable aspects, the tyrant dictator—as usual—escapes from the truth, washes his hand of these acts, and tries to cover and camouflage his crimes and abhorrent acts. He also tries to give advice, preach, and blame military men for the negligence.

In all cases, such a phenomenon only reflects the erosion in [words indistinct] the Army which Saddam Husayn wants it to be driven by ideological zealous to defend his regime, evils, and crimes. At the same time, this explains the regime's feverish attempts and efforts to restore control over the Army through resorting to incentives and attractions, including the valor medals and other decorations. The objective is to attract new military men in anticipation of any development under the pretext of their courage, skills, and protection of the homeland. What a perfect and well-concocted game! This is despite the fact that we are fully certain that resorting to flattering the military commanders will not save the tyrant executioner from the just punishment awaiting him at the hands of the popular masses together with the sons of the Armed Forces, after he has flooded the country with bloodbaths and after turning it into an unbearable hell as a result of his brutal and barbaric policies and his aggressive, treacherous war.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Speaks at 12th Anniversary Meeting

LD2504195890 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Speech by Afghan President Najibullah at a meeting marking the 12th anniversary of the April Revolution; in Kabul on 25 April—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate:

Dear compatariots and esteemed friends, 12 years have gone by since the armed uprising of the Afghan Armed Forces, which was the starting point of political, social, and economic changes in the country. The people of Afghanistan, who desired the maintenance of their age-old demands by expressing support for the change of 27 April, welcomed the plans and programs of the new state. The overall lines of the tasks of the state at that time in fact were the beginning of political, economic, social, national, and cultural development in our society. It was naturally supported by the majority of Afghans, because these aims accorded completely with the high interests of the country. Programs for the growth of national economy, the provision of grounds for the broad participation of people in the country's politico-social life of the country, the maintenance of social justice, the consolidation of national sovereignty, the protection of the independence, and territorial integrity were goals of the Republic of Afghanistan.

During the past 12 years, despite a variety of pressures, which were expanded to the limits of open armed aggression, intervention, and other forms of interference in Afghan affairs, the Republic of Afghanistan and the heroic Armed Forces resolutely and courageously defended the territorial integrity and national honor of the country. Unfortunately the people lost a number of children on the path to achieving those aspirations. On behalf of the Republic of Afghanistan and the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, I pray for and respect all martyrs on the path of defending the homeland and wish their families consolation.

Foreign armed interference in Afghanistan's affairs, the provocation and financing of war and bloodshed in the country by a number of foreign sources and governments, and serious mistakes by the state in choosing ways for the realization of general social and economic goals became caused the flames of war in Afghanistan, as well as Afghan to rise against Afghan.

During the past years, we have several times spoken about the various reasons for war and armed confrontation in the country and have comprehensively highlighted the incorrect methods of the leadership and the realization of the aspirations and aims of the April Revolution of 1978. I don't think it is necessary to once again mention the list of past mistakes. A few days ago at the party plenum of the Kabul City Party Committee, I mentioned these matters. The critical assessment of these mistakes made the party and state conclude that they should rethink their policies, methods, and structure as a whole and, in order to do this, to follow the policy of national reconciliation.

Dear compariots, dear friends: Afghanistan, after the announcement of the policy of national reconciliation, undertook a series of measures to put an end to war and maintain peace. As the first step, it adopted broad measures toward national reconciliation: the formation of a coalition administration with broad social bases, giving up the monopoly of power; the expansion of democracy, and the creation of political and economic pluralism in the country. A constitution, which is the guarantor of the interest of all social groups and strata, was enforced in November, for the first time after the April Revolution, approved by the Grand Assembly.

The activities of the Afghan parliament began again after a 15-year lull; the process of the removal of the power monopoly by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan commenced; and the opportunity of free and legal activities has been generated for new political parties and organizations. It is a fact that the national reconciliation policy requires changes in economic fields as well. Therefore, the government's economic policy was based on economic pluralism and multi-structural foundations in economy, on the encouragement of the private sector, and on securing foreign investments.

The Afghan Government has introduced due changes in its foreign policy as well and made all-out efforts to develop its relations with all countries, especially with neighboring and Islamic countries on the basis of respect for independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, noninterference in the affairs of other states, and for the charter of human rights and other accepted international legal norms. The Afghan Government prioritizes national interests, international peace, and security in its foreign policy. As a result of the new foreign policy, the signing of the Geneva agreements and the withdrawal of Soviet forces were made possible. With the signing of the Geneva agreement, the hopes of the people of Afghanistan and peace-loving forces of the world rose for the cessation of war, the restoration of peace, and the return of the refugees to the country. But unfortunately due to the nonobservance of the letter and spirit of the Geneva agreements by Pakistan and the continuation of interference by that country, peace has not yet been restored and our wretched people suffer more from the continuation of war.

After the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, armed opposition forces and their foreign supporters apparently related the reason of the continuation of war to the existence of the aforementioned forces. A positive development toward peace had not only not been seen, but fighting took wider and more severe dimensions. With regret, it must be said that now most of the loss of life and material is being suffered by the civilians of the Republic of Afghanistan. The choice of armed extremist opposition in response to all of Afghanistan's peace proposals is the blocking of highways, attacks on supply

convoys, rocket attacks on cities and densely populated areas, and the organizing of terrorist explosions which are persistently supported and assisted by interference from abroad.

Dear compatriots, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan confronted a great and fateful test after the withdrawal of Soviet forces and was able to pass that test victoriously. [applause] Fourteen months of experience after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces showed that the Afghan Armed Forces have the capability to resolutely defend national sovereignty and dislodge foreign aggressions. This is the manifestation of the turning of the state of Republic of Afghanistan, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, and its political allies into a powerful military-political system and is a reality which cannot be ignored by any force. The independent defense of the Republic of Afghanistan against aggressions and interference—to which the world is a witness—is on the one hand a consequence of the heroism and valor of the Armed Forces, and on the other hand, a result of the support of the people of Afghanistan. The situation daily highlights the fact that the military way has no outcome but the increase of war victims. Therefore, the Republic of Afghanistan, being aware of that fact, has repudiated the military way and instead has proposed a political solution through contact, negotiation, and understanding.

In consideration of past experiences, the closest way to reach this is to start talks among all belligerent forces and between Afghans themselves so that a rational and realistic political road can be searched out and found in consideration of the national interests of Afghanistan and interests of each political force.

As I have formally invited Muhammad Zahir Shah and Hazrat-e Sibghatullah Mojaddedi at the international conference to mark the revelation day of the Holy Koran [words indistinct] to play an active role in the process of restoration of peace. I am hoping that the opposition formations, internal commanders, and personalities living in Europe and United States all can and will take practical action in the interest of the restoration of peace in the country.

While making no exception for the part and role of any political force or any patriotic individual in this process, there are forces and personalities—counting on their limited individual or group interests—who alone wait and fulfill their own interests in making use of the feasible opportunity; whereas the main and fundamental question is the restoration of peace and ending of war in the country, because military clashes and continuation of war threaten all pro-peace forces alike. Some persons and individuals who are living comfortably in foreign countries think that by expressing an opinion, issuing resolutions, or carrying out news conferences can serve the cause of peace in their country. But such action is not enough for the cause of peace and ending the war, they must immediately and practically take action. I think the time for sitting idle and watching events is gone. The vigilant people of Afghanistan will make their judgment on forces, formations, and personalities who by va pretexts draw themselves aside from the process o restoration of peace or remain indifferent or ina regarding the future destiny of the country. Unde present circumstances, in which Afghans are kill injured every day, it is a great sin regarding the peo Afghanistan to watch or put individual or group co erations and viewpoints above the wishes and will nation.

Occasionally it can be heard that the people of Af stan allegedly have not benefited from the fruit of Such a remark is in fact an affirmation of the cont tion of war which sheds the blood of the innocent p of Afghanistan. The continuation of a massacre is n best way for people to enjoy the result of their str but it is hidden in accepting the existing realities Afghan society and participation of all pro-peace for preparing the ground for actual understanding a all relevant forces for the solution of the Af problem. The existing realities and national intere the people of Afghanistan dictate that now every su of Afghanistan, particularly political forces and pe ities who are after a peaceful solution for the Af problem is duty-bound to hold each others hand and a common solution for the country's issues wi consideration of linguistic or religious links of nat or local attachements. Otherwise with the continu of military clashes and prolonging the miseries o country and people, there is the fear that the ex united Afghanistan—God forbid—will be endange

Without being proud of its military victories, the Af Government is continuing the policy of national r ciliation and peaceful solution of the conflict, keepi mind the existing realities in the country.

As in the past, all ground has been prepared for bri together all forces for peace, and readiness has expressed for a political solution on national and national levels. In the future too, all our efforts w concentrated on creating the atmospohere of peac tranquility through the participation of all forces, ical circles, and personalities in support of peace.

Dear friends and compatriots, as far as it depends o actions of Afghanistan, a series of peace-seeking sures have been implemented in the past and co hensive plans for the political solution of the proble Afghanistan have been put forward. While appreci and praising humanitarian efforts of foreign cou and international sources, we are trying, by co dating internal factors—that is the creation of bridges and contact with the opposition for the pu of starting talks—to succeed in the immediate cess of war and the maintenance of peace in the countr

The convocation of the Grand Assembly and intr tion of changes in the country's Constitution, in li which the state structure, the government organs the economic policies of the Republic of Afghanista be adjusted, are important steps which further ex

the circle for the unity of action of political forces toward creating a coalition administration with broad social bases. In this regard, I would like to invite all forces, groups, opposition circles, and personalities inside and outside the country to freely take part in the work of Grand Assembly and, by presenting their constructive plans and proposals, and to take active part. For this purpose, Afghanistan and its political allies jointly consider the creation of the Peace Front of the Republic of Afghanistan as the center for gathering all forces, parties, and patriotic peace- seeking personalities. We believe that the Peace Front will be able to prepare the way for the unity and accord of all political forces and personalities regarding a joint program and, in the future, play its role in the social, economic, and political leadership of Afghanistan within the body of a broad-based coalition government. In this way it has been envisaged that changes should be introduced into the structure and platform of the front.

Also, in light of the resolutions of the Grand Assembly and the Peace Front, the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan will introduce necessary changes in its aims, charter, and structure. This will be another important step toward the consolidation and deepening of the policy of national reconciliation. In all the aforementioned measures, the dictates of the sacred religion of Islam, the interests of the people of Afghanistan, and the laudable traditions and customs of our patriotic fathers and forefathers, as a golden principle, will be taken under consideration.

In conclusion, I pray to Almighty God to help all the Afghans in maintaining peace in the country. Success comes from God. [applause]

Najibullah Interviewed on Revolution Anniversary

[Text] For the text of a TASS interview with Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, on the anniversary of the April Revolution, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 25 April Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

Wakil Holds Talks With Counterparts at UN

LD2504092990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0445 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 24, BAKHTAR—Abdul Wakil minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) who has gone to New York for participating in the 18th special sessions of the UN General Assembly on international economic cooperations, specially for the acceleration of the economic growth of the developing countries, and for attending to the sessions of the foreign ministers of the member countries of the Non-aligned Movement in New York, on April 23rd 1990 in the UN Headquarters had a meeting with Inder Kumar Gujral, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of India.

In this meeting the ministers of foreign affairs of the two countries exchanged views on the development of the international issues including that of our region, and called on the establishment of peace and stability in the region and soonest cessation of interferences and provactive activities of Pakistan in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and India.

According to another report, Abdul Wakil minister of foreign affairs of the RA on April 23rd in the UN Headquarters had separate meetings with the minister of foreign affairs of Libya and deputy foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen who is leading the delegation of this country to the UN special sessions.

The sides in these meetings exchanged views on the development of the international issues as well as on the agenda of the proximate sessions of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference due to be held in the near future.

The minister of foreign affairs of the RA called on the credible members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference to do not spare any efforts for the restoration of the legitimate right of the membership of Afghanistan in the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, with taking into account the recent politico-military developments in this country.

The heads of the Libyan delegation as well as that of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen voiced their support to the peaceful endeavours of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan for the solutions of the issues in and around Afghanistan via dialogue and political means between the Afghan warring sides.

Watanjar Releases Some Coup Prisoners 24 Apr

LD2604080190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0439 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 25, BAKHTAR: Some of prisoners who were accused the involvement in the March abortive coup d'etat of Gulbuddin Shahnawaz were released on April 24, 1990.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that Full General M. Aslam Watanjar, Republic of Afghansitan [RA] defense minister, in the release ceremony, talked on the plots and conspiracies of the enemies of the country and people and appraised the good will of the RA government, particularly of President Najibullah.

Then a freed officer on behalf of other, while repenting their past actions, pledged that they will honestly serve for people and country as well implementation of national reconciliation policy. [sentence as received]

Pakistani Charge Warned Over Kabul Rocket Attack

LD2504092290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0442 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 24, BAKHTAR—Charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today and the following

protest note of Afghan authorities about the launching of five surface-to-surface rockets in Kabul city residential areas was conveyed to him:

In the evening of April 22, 1990, five surface-to-surface rockets were fired on residential areas of Kabul City as a result of which 20 persons were killed, 25 wounded and a number of residential houses were damaged.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan lodges its severe protest with the Government of Pakistan about such terroristic actions which are taking place with the assistance of the Government of Pakistan and strongly denounces it. The Afghan authorities call on Pakistani authorities to prevent the occurrence of such terroristic actions. Otherwise its grave responsibility falls on Pakistani authorities.

Recent Government Military Actions Outlined

LD2604080690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 25, BAKHTAR: The government security forces have discovered a 25 kg explosives in 7th and 9th precincts of Kabul City on April 24 hidden by Pak-backed extremists for killing innocent civilians. The said forces attacked extremists' arms caravan in Helman Province, killed five war-mongers and seized a large quantity of their arms.

The security forces conducted mopping up operation in Shakar Dara district of Kabul Province on the same day in order to prevent extremist terroristic actions. They seized a large amount of extremist weapons.

Furthermore, as a result of intensification of arms clashes among oppositions rival groups, in Mir Bacha Kowt and Sancharak districts of Parvan and Badakhshan provinces 120 extremists were either killed or wounded.

Besides in armed clashes happened beteen Gulbuddin and Sayaf men in Vardak, Parvan, Baghlan and Badakhshan provinces lately, 27 extremists were killed, tens other injured. In addition, 30 of Rabbani men including 5 of their ringleaders were captured alive by the Gulbuddin men in Doshi district of Baghlan Province.

Recently, two armed groups consisting of 20 persons gave up war and joined national reconciliation policy in Balkh Province.

India

Gujral, Yaqub Khan Agree To 'Reduce Tension'

BK2604005890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] The foreign ministers of India and Pakistan met in New York last evening and agreed to take steps to reduce tension, avoid confrontation, and keep the channels of communication open. A joint statement issued at the end of the over two-hour-long meeting said the directors general of the military operations of the two countries should remain in touch so as to avoid confrontation.

The external affairs minister, Mr. Inder Kumar Gujral, told reporters after the meeting that he has made it clear to his Pakistani counterpart, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, that Islamabad should stop supporting terrorism and take some credible steps to show that it has done so.

Asked if the talks were useful, Mr. Gujral said they were fruitful because he was able to put forward India's position in detail directly to Mr. Yaqub Khan. Mr. Gujral reiterated that India is always ready for peace and wanted to avoid any conflict.

The two ministers are in New York for a special session of the UN General Assembly on the international economic cooperation.

More on Gujral-Yaqub Khan Talks

BK2604064690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Excerpt] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has asserted that Pakistan must immediately stop interference in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab to justify its contention of noninterference and to avoid confrontation. In his meeting with Pakistani counterpart Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in New York last evening, Mr. Gujral also rejected the doctrine that a third party should verify reports of Islamabad's interference in the affairs of the border states of India. He said the two countries had given up this principle of mediation following the signing of the Simla Agreement.

Later, Mr. Gujral told newsmen that positive results can be expected from the talks if Pakistan stops its support to terrorists and subversives acting against India. [passage omitted]

Increased Troop Deployment Along Borders Denied

BK2504150990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi today denied that India has increased deployment of its troops along the borders. Clarifying the position, he said such insinuations are not based on fact, but appear to be an attempt to whip up the war hysteria in Pakistan. The spokesman told newsmen that there is nothing new to the press reports in Pakistan claiming that India has put up electrified fences all along the border. He said this was done three years ago after a series of meetings between the officials of the two countries at various levels with a view to prevent smugglers and other infiltrators from across the border.

Minister on Steps To Prevent Communal Violence

BK2504164090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] The home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, told the Lok Sabha today that the government has succeeded in restoring the authority of the administration in Kashmir. There is a distinct improvement in the situation in the valley. The administration has also succeeded in checking Pakistan's attempts at infiltration and subversion. A number of militants have been caught and their weapons seized. The home minister was replying to the debate on the demands for grants of his ministry and to a special discussion on the communal situation. The house later passed the demands.

Sharing the members concern over the situation in Kashmir Valley, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed said the strong measures taken by the government have started yielding dividends. The center is determined to apply a healing touch to the people of the valley and redress their grievances. The political process would also start soon. He urged all parties, particularly the National Conference and the Congress-I, to joint hands to fight the secessionists.

Referring to a point made by a member on reports of a large number of people crossing the Pak area, the home minister said the reports are wrong and baseless. He declared amid thumping of desks by members that there is no question of anyone crossing over to Pakistan. The home minister also announced a scheme to check infiltration on border states. It is fully funded by the center. Under the scheme, bona fide residents will be identified, while the movement of outsiders staying for more than 30 days will be checked. Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, and Jammu and Kashmir have already been provided with funds. West Bengal and Assam have been asked to furnish details of their schemes.

On Punjab, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed assured the house that the government will deal firmly with terrorism. No leniency will be shown to them. Assembly elections will be held within six months.

Referring to Assam, the home minister expressed the center's serious concern over the activities of ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam].

He disclosed that Delhi will be conferred statehood with a special status. A bill for this will be brought in the current session.

On the communal situation, the home minister said the government is determined to eliminate the violence. Comprehensive guidelines have been issued to state governments to check the outbreak of communal violence and promote harmony. Officials in sensitive districts will be made accountable for any communal flare-up in their areas. It has been decided to ban provocative slogans and wall writings which incite communal passions. The states have been advised to prevent the use of loud speakers from religious places and raising of slogans detrimental to peace and harmony.

About the Ram Janma Bhumi-Babri Masjid [shrine in dispute between Hindus and Muslims] issue, the home minister said the government is trying to bring the contending parties together to find an amicable settlement. He urged all concerned to exercise restraint, particularly in the present security scenario. He criticized the Congress-I for paying only lip service to secularism.

'Smuggled' Arms Seized, Three Arrested in Kashmir

BK2604033190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, a large haul of sophisticated smuggled arms and ammunition has been seized in the Ranbir Singh Pura sector of the India-Pakistan border. The arms captured by the Border Security Force [BSF] included 10 AK-74 rifles, two pistols, 40 rifle magazines, and 20 kg of explosives. The BSF also arrested one person, while three of his accomplices managed to escape.

In the continuing drive to flush out antinational elements, the security forces arrested 71 subversives from the rural areas of Baramula District yesterday.

The employees of the civil secretariat have been assured of adequate security arrangements at their place of work and at the places of their stay in Srinagar. A deputation of the employees yesterday met the state chief secretary, Mr. R.K. Thakkar, and discussed with him the problems relating to the annual move of the secretariat and other offices from Jammu to Srinagar. The chief secretary told the employees that hostel-type accommodation with mess facilities and also security in transit from place of stay to the place of work have also been arranged.

In the meanwhile, there will be eight hours' relaxation in the curfew in Srinagar from 0900 this morning.

U.S. Revocation of Kashmir Leader's Visa Hailed

BK2504161890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that the U.S. decision to revoke the visa of Amanuallah Khan, chief of the so-called Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, has lent credence to Washington's assessment that he was inciting people to resort to violent acts. Replying to questions by newsmen, the spokesman stressed that Pakistan is supporting Amanullah Khan on the implication the kind of activities he seeks to promote. [sentence as heard]

Australian Mirage Jet Sale to Pakistan Opposed

'Lethal Potential' Cited

BK2504101090 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] The Indian Government is to make a formal protest against Australia's decision to sell 50 of its obsolete Mirage military jets to Pakistan. Radio Australia's Canberra office says the authorities in New Delhi will outline their objections to the $27 million [currency not further specified] deal and its implications for the already strained relations between India and Pakistan by calling in Australia's high commissioner.

Meanwhile, India's high commissioner in Canberra, Mr. Sudarshan Bhutani, says the sale of the mothballed tactical fighters will do nothing to the stabilization of South Asia which he says is the stated aim of Australian foreign policy towards the region. He says in India's view the aircraft have substantial lethal potential.

Australian Envoy Summoned

BK2504161090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] India has expressed its concern over the sale of Mirage aircraft to Pakistan by Australia. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen that the Australian high commissioner, Mr. Graham Barton Feakes, was summoned to the External Affairs Ministry last evening and was told about India's anguish. The spokesman said that the sale will not contribute to the stabilization of the situation in South Asia which appears to be the stated aim of Australia's policy toward this region.

Iran

Further Reportage on Hostage Crisis Developments

'Suitable Responses' Urged

LD2504212690 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Excerpts] During the past few days and in the wake of the release of the U.S. hostage Robert Polhill in Lebanon, the hostages issue has taken special dimensions and also excitement in the region.

Release of the said hostage appears to have created a sort of optimism among the parties involved in the hostages issue. Polhill's release has come at a time when it is presumed that this matter may also clarify the situation of the Lebanese, Palestinian, and Iranian hostages, for the official in charge of the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP), while setting the U.S. hostage free, had pointed out that this move has taken place as a goodwill gesture and for closing the hostages file forever. Therefore, most of the political observers believe that, in case this move is followed by reciprocal (?action) from America and exercise of its influence in the Israeli regime and the Phalangist forces, this process can take a rational and proper course.

Meanwhile, an informed source in Beirut announced yesterday that the Zionist regime has plans to shortly release 30 Lebanese detainees while militia men under the Israeli command in South Lebanon, too, set free four of their prisoners. These are timely and in response to the release of Western hostages in Lebanon.

But this issue's assumed significance is [that] it will go to [word indistinct] right, and the precise nature and situation of the case. The Zionist regime which has occupied South Lebanon set up a so-called security belt. [passage omitted]

Some figures indicate that presently 300 Lebanese are lodged in the Khiyam detention camp and another 75 Lebanese are jailed in the occupied Palestine. At the same time, Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim, who was abducted by Israeli commandos, is still in the captivity of the Zionist regime. Therefore, release of 30 Lebanese by that regime are (?right) but this connection that those freed do not belong to Lebanon's Hizballah group will considerably affect the primarily fundamental and humane aspects of the problem. [sentence as heard]

Hence, it so appears that with due consideration of these problems, the process of settlement of the hostages crisis may not have the desirable momentum. Iran's Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati has said that the release of a greater number of the Western hostages will depend on the goodwill and reciprocal moves of America. In related news, Husayn Musavi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement [as heard] said yesterday that another U.S. hostage would be released soon. Therefore, in view of the promising conditions created for the final settlement of the hostages crisis, it seems that suitable responses by the parties involved in the issue will bring the fulfillment of these conditions still closer to success.

Ministry Aide on Iran's Role

PM2604092890 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 24 Apr 90 p 15

[Interview with Hoseyn Musavian, identified as "director of the Foreign Ministry's West Europe Desk," by correspondent Guido Barendson: date, place not given]

[Excerpt] Tehran—"It is a good start, but it is not enough: We have already asked the Islamic Jihad to release a second hostage. When? Within a month, we hope." The very youthful Iranian negotiator stroked his beard with satisfaction, under the stern gaze of Imam Khomeyni, portrayed in the photograph invariably displayed in government offices.

Officially, Hoseyn Musavian is director of the Foreign Ministry's West Europe Desk, but he played a leading role in the search for the essential key to open the first of the cells that hold the Western hostages kidnapped by

Lebanese fundamentalists instigated and financed by Tehran. He has closely followed every stage in the long and complex negotiations.

[Barendson] How did you manage to persuade the Jihad leaders?

[Musavian] We used every means, and it was not easy. They are proud people and they insisted that the Americans must first send someone important to Damascus. That is, until we made them realize that it was stupid and futile to demand Kelly's involvement and that, while not releasing the hostage in order to do Bush or Baker a personal favor, they could very well hand him over to the American ambassador in Syria. The release had to take place unconditionally, chiefly because of Iran's position: We refused to accept any provisos, so that nobody could accuse us of manipulating kidnappings. They accepted our requests, and we thank them. [Musavian ends]

There is an evident anxiety about appearing to be the puppets of the notorious "Holy War for the liberation of Palestine." Khomeyni's heirs, following President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's instructions, are not only distancing themselves from the extremist groups based between the al-Biqa' valley and the Shiite outskirts of West Beirut, but are sending peace signals to America. There is no long any talk here about the "great Satan."

[Barendson] What do you expect from the U.S. Administration now?

[Musavian] America has very extensive means for displaying its goodwill toward the Lebanese and Iran. A positive gesture from the West and from Israel's allies could lead to a turnabout soon. So the West must now exert pressure on Israel to observe international law and to leave the Palestinians and Lebanese in peace. We are against terrorism, against hostage taking, and against the hijacking of aircraft, and we are willing to cooperate with the entire world against such activities.

[Barendson] Yes, but what specifically are you requesting from the U.S. Government?

[Musavian] Our resources are meager, whereas those of the United States are limitless. So, specifically, it is up to them to decide with what system to display their goodwill.

[Barendson] You say that Robert Polhill's release is just a good start.

[Musavian] Certainly. We have requested the release of another hostage, even if America does nothing. This will be the most difficult moment. Be that as it may, we hope that it will happen within the next month.

[Barendson] Is it true that Mahmud Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president's brother, is involved in the negotiations?

[Musavian] No. The president is following the matter personally, and prefers to use government figures. I would like to point out that the revolutionary guide himself, Ayatollah Khamene'i, is profoundly opposed to kidnapping. Iran has shown how willing it is to use all its moral influence to reach a positive solution, and now that the Lebanese groups have taken the first step it is up to the United States and Israel to do the same, to release the hostages held in Lebanon and Israel. The Jihad's decision now requires a proper acknowledgment from the West." [passage omitted]

Paper Condemns U.S. House Resolution

LD2604103690 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—A Persian daily Thursday [26 April] said that the great Satan is the number one enemy of Islam and the humanity without commitment to any principle. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said in a commentary that the war between Islam and the world of arrogance would never cool down as the latter has never been content with its own rights and limits. Experience has shown that arrogance will never give up its aggressive nature, said the daily, stressing that Muslim's vigilance and readiness, and their reliance on divine power was the only way to counter it.

The daily was commenting on a recent resolution passed by the U.S. House of Representatives which recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of the Zionist regime. The resolution was signed in the very process of the solving of the hostage issue. In a malicious move and as a grimace to the good-will of Muslims, the U.S. House of Representatives made things more complicated by blocking the way to solving the problem.

The daily stressed that the timing of the resolution is not coincidental and that it shows that the U.S. does not want the hostage issue to be ended once and for all. The reason, said the daily, is that they have thousands of Muslims in their hands while the oppressed Muslims in Lebanon and Palestine hold only a few hostages.

The daily termed U.S. ballyhoo against hostage taking as a device for deflecting attention on the inhuman policies of the U.S. Government. The recent resolution indicates that the U.S. Administration does not at all respect the lives of the American people including the hostages, it said.

Although Washington would announce in its propaganda that there is no connection between the resolution and the release of hostages, but the issue is so clear and unambiguous that anyone with limited political knowledge can realise the circumstantial implications of the development. The U.S. representatives either lack political insight and have launched on this foolish move or have signed the resolution deliberately to stop the process of the release of hostages, said the commentary.

It mentioned that those holding hostages would delay their release in a natural reaction to the current developments to inform the world people of the fact that the U.S. Administration is panicked with the release of hostages. They (the Americans) fear that the freed hostages might clarify facts to

the people unveiling all their false propaganda and exposing the inhuman nature of the White House and its illegal offspring the Zionists or Falangists.

The commentary said the resolution was passed to condition the minds of the world people for the transfer of the political center of the Zionists to Qods [Jerusalem] which, it said, would certainly face the wrathful and unified reaction of the Muslim world.

Editorial 'Hopes' Hostage-Taking Ends

NC2604111690 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Apr 90 pp 2,6

[Editorial: "Now Is the Time for Goodwill Gestures"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush has raised the question of showing goodwill vis-a-vis mutual gestures of goodwill on the issue of hostages in Lebanon.

We know that the West, the Palestinians, the Lebanese and we Iranians all have hostages in Lebanon and Israel. And with great probability most of these hostages and prisoners in Lebanon and Israel are alive.

After four innocent Iranians became the first victims of hostage-taking eight years ago, Iranian officials and Lebanese Muslim groups started a continuous investigation to gain information on their fates. Despite the claims of the Western mass media, today documentary evidence shows that the Iranian hostages are alive. They are the hostages who have been missing in captivity in Lebanon for the longest period of time.

But how long should combatant Lebanese groups wait for a gesture of goodwill from the West, and how long should the West wait for goodwill from the Lebanese groups?

For freeing human lives, changing conditions and putting pre-conditions is not a right thing to do. If one side waits for goodwill from the other, firstly this is itself a pre-condition, and secondly the result of this will only be continued captivity of innocent human beings, which is not a desirable humanitarian result.

Freedom of all hostages without any conditions and immediately should be solely based on a humanitarian cause and Islamic beliefs.

But which of the two sides should take the first humanitarian step? Should it be pro-Western groups in Lebanon and Israel, or should it be Lebanese combatant groups?

What would be right is that those hostages who have been suffering in captivity for the longest period of time should be freed first. But this also should not become a pre-condition.

Why shouldn't one of the sides without waiting for gestures of goodwill from the other, perform some self-sacrifice and take the first step in this humanitarian affair?

It will be very desirable if the Lebanese Muslim groups take the first step in releasing their hostages. This step, while being an Islamic and humanitarian action, will also test the goodwill of the Western governments and pro-Western and Israeli groups in Lebanon and will open the way for mutual goodwill and positive and constructive moves.

The Islamic Jihad we feel should continue to persist with their goodwill intentions and should in their turn consider it sufficient that the U.S. ambassador to Damascus who was away elsewhere on official duty good enough to conduct the arrangements for the release of the hostage [sentence as published].

All in all we welcome the announcement of the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine that they had decided on the release of one hostage. And let us hope this can be the prelude to the release of one more hostage by another group.

Hurdles there may be on the way, but it is our hope that despite all, the freedom of the hostages can become a reality materializing soon. Let us further hope that the goodwill trends from all sides will continue until not only just this one, but all other hostages are released at the earliest.

Undoubtedly this humanitarian action of the Islamic Jihad will be registered in the history of Human Rights and will be respected and praised by public opinion the world over.

We hope this initiative will be the key to freedom of all innocent hostages in Lebanon and Israel, and that the year 1990 will be the year of end of all hostage-taking.

Velayati Continues Visit at UN Special Session

Addresses Nonaligned Ministers' Meeting

LD2504222190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Mr. Velayati, the foreign affairs minister, made some remarks at an extraordinary ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Movement in New York and explained our country's positions on world and international issue.

Mr. Velayati began his remarks by welcoming the representative of Namibia, the country which recently gained independence, and referred to important and sensitive developments which have prevailed in the international system since the last session of the movement in Yugoslavia and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes positive developments which have come about in the international arena and considers them as a sign of the age when the will of nations govern. He added: At a time when the trend of decreasing tension in the world is underway, regrettably we witnessed the invasion of Panama. [passage omitted]

Holds More Talks with Counterparts

LD2604075790 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 26, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed latest international and regional developments including the resolution 598 with his Algerian, Cuban, Austrian and Malian counterparts here Wednesday [25 April].

In meeting with Cuba's Isidor Malmierca Peoli, the two sides agreed on expansion of bilateral relations and cooperation at international forums, the Non-aligned Movement especially. Malmierca said that U.S. operated T.V. Marti was illegal and was interference in internal affairs of Cuba. Both ministers also stressed implementation of the U.N. resolution 598 and encountering U.S. expansionist policies.

The Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali voiced his country's support for the implementation of the resolution and stressed expansion of bilateral cooperation. It was announced in the meeting that the Algerian foreign minister will visit Tehran in a near future.

Malian Foreign Minister Modibo Keita stressed cooperation among third world countries and both sides reached agreements on Tehran-Bamako ties.

Tehran-Vienna economic cooperation especially those in connection with Iran's first five-year development plan covered Velayati's talks with Alois Mock of Austria.

Velayati is currently here to take part in the 18th special session of the U.N. General Assembly.

Meets Foreign Ministers

LD2504173190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, who went to New York to take part in a special session of the UN General Assembly on economic and international cooperation, met with the foreign ministers of Kuwait, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, and Ireland.

In his meeting with the foreign minister of Zimbabwe yesterday, bilateral relations and important international issues, particularly issues pertaining to the Non-aligned Movement [NAM], were discussed. Further, Mr. Velayati described reasons behind the nonimplementation of Resolution 598, while the foreign minister of Zimbabwe expressed his country's resolute support for the implementation of that resolution.

In Mr. Velayati's meeting with the Kuwaiti foreign minister, bilateral relations and important issues about the Persian gulf were reviewed. Both sides stressed expansion of bilateral ties and the attainment of security in the region.

Furthermore, Mr. Velayati in his meeting this morning with the Indonesian foreign minister, discussed the situation in Afghanistan and Cambodia, as well as implementation of Resolution 598 and issues pertaining to the NAM.

In Mr. Velayati's meeting with the Irish foreign minister, important international issues as well as bilateral relations were discussed.

Britain Wants 'Complete' Ties With Iran, Syria

LD2504210190 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] The British Government has called for the establishment of complete and normal ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria. William Waldegrave, the British foreign under secretary last night in an interview with the British Radio Network, said Iran and Syria are very significant and strategic and we are desirous to have complete and normal relations with both of them.

He added severence of relations between Iran and Britain was carried out by the Iranian Government and we are hopeful of a development in this regard.

Referring to the Iranians who have been taken hostage in Beirut by the Phalangists the British official said the Iranians have (?quite) legal issues in Lebanon. They have lost some individuals.

He added the British Foreign Office and the Archbishop of Canterbury have started some investigations to help find the Iranians hostages in Lebanon. Waldegrave said some other efforts are underway in order to release the Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners including Shaykh 'Ubayd from Israel.

Rajavi Death Attributed to Factional Infighting

LD2504154890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] According to Associated Press in Switzerland, Kazem Rajavi, a leader of a faction opposed to the Iranian Government, was shot dead near his house in Geneva. Kazem Rajavi was a former member of SAVAK and the source of the first contact between the Mojahedin-e Khalq and the CIA. During the regime of the annihilated shah he acted as a link between the SAVAK and the CIA for releasing Mas'ud Rajavi [present leader of the Mojahedin-e Khalq] from prison. He was the official in charge of the faction in Europe and the United States.

The assassination of Kazem Rajavi is the latest incident in the bloody clashes within the organization for a long time. It is said that in the course of these clashes a considerable number of the members of the organization have been killed in Iraq, and the continuation of these clashes is a form of revenge by each side.

U.S. 1980 Anti-Iranian Moves, Raid Recalled

NC2504124990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Untitled Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Excerpts] In the year 1359 [21 March 1980-20 March 1981], the U.S. Government's plot of aggression against Iranian soil was implemented with intensity, and the then U.S. President Carter openly announced the defeat of military operations in Tabas.

The excuse for the U.S. airplanes' [as heard] aggression was stated to be the release of U.S. spies and hostages who had been captured after the tyrannized Iranian nation occupied the den of spies.

From an assessment of the U.S. attitude toward Iran in the aftermath of the Iranian revolution, it becomes clear that the true U.S. objective was to exert pressure on and put impediments in the path of the Islamic revolution, in order to eventually topple the nascent Islamic Republic.

The Islamic revolution of Iran—with the foundation of its ideological beliefs—transformed the entire social structure of Iran. The massive interests the United States accrued from years of plundering and pillaging the wealth of the Muslim Iranian nation were severed, and the extensive U.S. installations and the multinational imperialist companies which had invested some billions were dismantled. Imperialism thus lost one of its real supporters in the area.

As a result, not only did Iranian interests become a target for onslaughts, but the wave of Islamic revolutions in the region generated a deluge of nationalistic and Islamic movements which seriously threatened U.S. interests in other reactionary countries of the region. The United States embarked on two courses of action in order to safeguard its interests in the region. The staging of plots and intrigues for toppling the Islamic revolution from within and the bolstering of the reactionary countries in the region were the measures taken in the first year of the Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

All the subsequent plots and the overt acts of intervention, in addition to a coup d'etat, were engineered and pursued from the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. The Muslim Iranian nation, with its perceptive comprehension and assessment of the U.S. intrigues, displayed an unprecedented reaction and occupied the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, which had evolved into a center of espionage in Iran. Thus, once again U.S. imperialism was mired in a political crisis resulting from the disgrace of carrying out espionage activities. Carter, then President of the United States, had been confronted with a massive political crisis and began seeking some sort of deliverance from the quandary, as he himself confessed later. An economic embargo was initiated against Iran, and the EEC also joined in this U.S. decision. [passage omitted]

The U.S. Government maintained such an attitude toward the oppressed revolutionary nation despite all its international accords and claims, and its foreign policy dossier with regard to Islamic Iran is shorn of any kind of goodwill, sincerity, or respect for any principles of humanitarianism or equality.

Karrubi Speaks on U.S. 'Grudge'

LD2504114590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Excerpt] In today's open session of the Majles, the Majles speaker pointed to the anniversary of the U.S. military attack on Tabas, and considered that aggression as an indication of America's grudge against the Islamic revolution. Our correspondent reports on today's open session of the Majles.

[Correspondent] This morning's open session of the Majles was chaired by Mr Karrubi. He made some remarks, pointing to the U.S. military attack on Tabas on 25 April 1980, considering it as a sign of the American grudge against the Islamic revolution. He said: In its reaction to the revolutionary move of Muslim students following the imam's path, and the occupation of its nest of spies in Iran, the United States attacked our country's territory through an aggressive move. With God's blessings, the United States was defeated and disgraced, and was forced to flee. He added: The American statesmen still have the same nature, and their grudge against the Islamic system of Iran has increased. In conclusion Mr. Karrubi paid tribute to the sacrifices of martyr Montazer-Qa'em, who was martyred in the Tabas incident.

The session continued by reviewing a bill pertaining to the scope of authority and power of the head of the judiciary, and it was subsequently ratified by deputies. Debate on that bill had begun in the last Majles session. [passage omitted]

Further on Karrubi Remarks

LD2504151290 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 25, IRNA—The Majles speaker said today that American statesman have continued their aggressive attitude towards Iran and in fact their hostility towards the Islamic system of government has increased. Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi, commemorating the 10th anniversary of the abortive U.S. attack on Tabas, noted that after receiving consecutive blows from Islamic Iran, the U.S. has stepped up its hostile acts against the Islamic revolution. "The military aggression at Tabas brought the U.S. nothing except disgrace and scandal," Karrubi said at today's open session of the Majles.

In 1980, U.S. planes and helicopters secretly landed at remote Tabas in Khorasan, intending to launch a surprise raid on Tehran and secure the release of Americans held in Iran for spying.

However, the American raid was miraculously foiled, when against all expectations a sandstorm arose resulting

in mid-air collision between a giant transport plane and a helicopter, which charred to death several American soliders, and forced the rest to flee.

USSR Agrees to 'Id Al-Fitr Aras Crossings

LD2504130290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] With the agreement of officials in Western Azerbaijan Province and in Nakhichevan Republic in the Soviet Union, the inhabitants of the areas on the two sides of the Aras River can enter each other's territory to visit their relatives for a period of three days, starting on the blessed 'Id al-Fitr feast.

According to a Central News Unit report, to facilitate the crossing of the Aras River from the Western Azarbaijan and Nakhichevan, repair work started today on the wooden bridge over the Aras River, north of the Poldasht region. Special forms have also been prepared by officials in Western Azerbaijan for those people wishing to cross the border.

Agreement Rescinded

LD2604125790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] People living in the central parts of Western Azerbaijan and Soviet Azerbaijan will not be able to travel between the two areas during 'Id al-Fitr.

The political deputy governor-general of Western Azerbaijan announced the news to the IRNA. He said: People will not be able to cross River Aras during 'Id al-Fitr because of the unpreparedness of the Soviet Azerbaijani authorities.

Imam Khomeyni Prayer House To Mark 'Id Al-Fitr

LD2504183490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1430 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] The headquarters in charge of the Friday prayers arrangements announced that the magnificent rites of the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr prayers [prayers marking the end of Ramadan], as in previous years, will be performed at 0600 on Friday the first of Shavval ol Mokarram [the Islamic month after Ramadan] corresponding to 27 April, in the Imam Khomeyni Prayer House, Tehran's prayer house.

*Reza Pahlavi's New Year's Message Published

90AS0011D London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Mar 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] Reza Pahlavi, the king of Iran, in his message to the Iranian people at the onset of the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] asked them to rise and demand the fulfillment of their rights of assembly, demonstration, and other rights and force the Islamic Republic regime to present its 11-year achievements for the free judgment of the nation.

In his message, Reza Pahlavi expressed his confidence that all leaders, personalities, and political forces will join hands in cooperation and solidarity and will not rest until the achievement of basic freedom and national rights.

The text of this message is as follows:

My Dear Compatriots:

I congratulate you on the occasion of the ancient and glorious celebration of Nowruz [New Year] and wish for you a year filled with good fortune, health, and, most important, freedom.

The year that passed was the year of freedom in the world and continuation of tyranny in our beloved country. Very few parts of the world remain that have not been resurrected by the life-giving breeze of freedom. From Chile to Nicaragua, from South Africa to Algeria, from Romania to Poland, all nations one after another achieved their basic rights as a result of their own efforts, perseverance, and struggle. They succeeded in electing leaders and regimes capable of fulfilling their true wishes and needs and are representatives of their collective wills. In this most glorious year of the century, freedom propagated so rapidly and shined so brightly that the likes of it have never been seen in history. Chains of bondage have broken. Idols collapsed one after another and the right of decision-making was taken away from absolute leaders, single parties, and arbitrary minorities, and was returned to its true position amongst the people.

Although this massive wave of salvation and freedom did not reach Iran, during the past year our country witnessed the beginning of a persistent move toward the destruction of the tyrannical regime. During this year, the weakness of the regime became more evident than ever. The regime's economic bankruptcy, inflation, and critical shortages, chronic and rising unemployment, extensive and unprecedented corruption in governmental organizations, and confusion in decision making has taken on disastrous dimensions.

Most importantly, in this year tens of thousands of you combatant compatriots rose—the circles, streets, and alleyways of Tehran and other Iranian cities—in objection to a regime that has for the past 11 years deprived you of participation in the government and determination of your fate.

It was your cries that woke some of the leaders of the regime from this eleven-year sleep and caused them to think of a solution. It was your resistance that forced the leaders of the regime, one by one, to confess to their failures and mistakes of the past 11 years. It was your movement and efforts that caused the whispers of the downfall of theocracy, the end of the rule by an individual and the collapse of the regime to be heard, even among the leaders and followers of the regime.

However, all this was only the beginning. The end will come when the nation has achieved freedom and all its rights and public will has replaced that of an individual or a minority.

The new year must be recorded in history as the fate-making year for achieving this objective and goal.

My compatriots, in this new year our primary mission and our most important human duty is to respond to the heartbreaking cries of tens of thousands of our compatriots who are being held in dreadful prisons and under most vicious conditions as helpless victims of this regime. It is our duty to force the regime to refrain from inhuman treatment of political and regular prisoners and its opponents. We must not forget that with the unjust execution of every Iranian a part of us is also destroyed. We must not forget that the torture of any of our compatriots is also our torture. Every flogging of the back of any Iranian is also a flagellation of our honor and dignity. [We must] force the regime to tell the families of prisoners the whereabouts of their loved ones and the reason for their imprisonment. [We must] force the regime to try the political prisoners publicly by a jury, in the presence of foreign as well as domestic correspondents, and on the basis of humane laws and standards.

In such endeavors for realization of minimum human rights in Iran, especially for the prisoners of the regime, the world is in harmony with us. The people of the world are aware of the crimes being committed against human rights in our country. Nowadays detailed account of these crimes are being circulated in international circles, human rights organizations, and the international media. There is no free nation or government left who has not condemned the regime of the Islamic Republic for its unprecedented and treacherous crimes and violations.

My dear compatriots, our other mission in this new year is to condemn and discredit the old and invalid argument of the regime regarding the rights and privileges of leadership and the rule of theocracy and, instead, emphasize on the need for return of rights and freedom of the nation; turn the new year into the year that the nation can enjoy the right of assembly and peaceful demonstrations in order to state its objections and complaints and pains of the past 11 years; turn the new year to a year which all groups, organizations, and parties without any exception and with any doctrine and ideology can communicate their ideas to the Iranian people through a free press. And, at last, we must turn the new year to a year that the regime is going to be forced to present its report card for the free judgment of the people. Such judgments are rights of all nations. These are rights for which the oppressed people of the West and East worked hard and succeeded to achieve them. We must not allow the Islamic Republic to be an exception to this historic and global process.

My compatriots, at the onset of this joyous and grand national celebration, I am certain that our beloved country is also on the path of hopeful and deep changes. Our will, determination, solidarity, and the world's constant move toward freedom are the boiling source of inspiration for these changes. I have no doubt that in this historic movement all leaders and combatant political forces will answer positively to your long desired wish by joining hands in solidarity and cooperation and, selflessly, will spare no efforts in the path of securing the rights and freedom of the nation.

Once again, with confidence that a bright and fruitful future is awaiting Iran and its hard working and diligent people, I salute you and wish you good fortune and victory.

*Bakhtiar's New Year's Message Published

90AS0011E London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Dr. Shapur Bakhtiar, leader of the National Resistance Movement, in a message to the Iranian people on the occasion of Nowruz [the New Year] announced that by taking positive steps in the path of solidarity among the political forces from the left and right and effectiveness of the struggle, the hopes for the victory of the freedom fighters against the clergy-led regime is more than ever before.

This message states: At the onset of the ancient Nowruz, more hopeful than ever about a bright future for Iran, I congratulate you—you inside the country who bear the brunt of all the difficulties and feel the inauspicious results of the unjust and corrupt rule of mullahs, and you in all corners of the world who are facing the most difficult conditions with the sadness of homesickness.

At the onset of this new year, I must tell you sincerely that I have never before been so hopeful about saving Iran from the tragic rule of mullahs, and this optimism is not unfounded.

In this message, it is also stated that: Powerful waves of freedom and democracy are roaming around the world and the ruling clergy will not be able to stop them at the boarders of Iran. Their destructive forces are not greater than those of Ceausescu, Pinochet, and others like them, nor is the craving of the Iranian people for freedom any weaker than the free nations!

*Reza Pahlavi Addresses Paris Monarchists

90OI0226S London KEYHAN in Persian 5 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] A number of KEYHAN readers have called asking us to print the text of the address by Reza Pahlavi, the king of Iran, and the congress of "Supporters of Constitutional Monarchy" in Paris. Since the text of this talk has not yet been published elsewhere, and since we promised to print it, we print the text verbatim in this issue of KEYHAN for the information of our esteemed readers.

My dear compatriots, I gave my views on how to free our dear nation of Iran from the clutches of religious despotism and establish a free and progressive government to manage society in a publication titled "Iran of the Future, Towards a Free and Progressive Society," which I made available to all. This publication was printed in

Persian and in the most important foreign languages both inside the country and abroad, and it was widely accepted, especially among Iranians.

Forces in support of constitutional monarchy, as you know, have given wide support to this publication, and they have shown it in various ways, a prominent example of which is your gathering here today. I thank the organizers of this gathering, which is an important step towards the realization of the goals of that publication and bringing closer together the hearts of those who support constitutional monarchy and organizing their ranks, and I also thank all of you who came from near and far to take part in this gathering. I know that if it were not for the limitations the French officials have imposed on the entry of Iranians into this country and on their participation in this gathering, the number of participants would be much greater than what we see. A great many of my compatriots who represent their groups and organizations were unable to take part in this gathering. I thank them, and I promise them that gatherings like this will take place in the future in other parts of the world, and I will also be happy to take part in those gatherings. The initiative to hold such gatherings is not limited only to the Iranians present at this gathering. There were and are many of our compatriots in other parts of the world who have had the energy and initiative to hold such gatherings, and they will do so in the future as well. My thoughts and feelings, just as they are now with you, were and will be with all of them.

The reaction of compatriots outside the country belonging to non-monarchist liberation forces to that publication was also most heartening. These forces, while praising the principles of liberation and the aspiration to establish a democratic government in our country, the main points of which were set forth in that very publication, supported especially the idea of organizing political forces and creating reputable spokesmen to conduct political dialogue among the various forces for the purpose of achieving greater cooperation in the path of liberating Iran, and they have expressed their views in this area through statements and articles published in publications outside the country, or through direct conversations with me personally and my close collaborators.

Most important and heartening of all, however, was the publication's wide acceptance and popularity among Iranians within the country, of which all of you today are aware. The people of the world also know that something has happened in Iran. This event, the movement of the people and their demonstrations against the regime of the Islamic Republic, was so clear that even the censor for the anti-freedom forces of Iran and the supporters of religious reaction ruling our country were not able to keep it hidden. The newspapers and media of the world were more or less forced to acknowledge that in Tehran and many of the cities of Iran the people staged protest demonstrations, which still continue in various ways. We do not want to attribute all these domestic events to ourselves and our views, but we say with absolute certainty that the existence of these protests and demonstrations, which are now becoming a continuous process in Iran, shows that the idea of freedom and the establishment of a progressive government is the hope of the people, it shows that the people of Iran are fed up with the yoke of religious government and that they are tired of the current disruptions in all their social, economic, cultural, and political life, which is the direct result of the rule of religious reaction over the nation. They are seeking a solution that will return the government of society to the people and popular forces, a solution that will convert the political disunity that generates anger and impotence to unity and cooperation, rather than the unemployment and poverty which have now overtaken the people and the nation, a solution that will turn the wheels of economic production and constructive activity, and will bring with it well-being and comfort for the people. In short, they are seeking a solution that will form in Iran, as in the world's other free and progressive nations, a government based on a national consensus and the participation of all popular forces and will bring the rule of law to society, rather than the rule of stubbornness and selfishness. The movement of the people inside the country shows that they will undoubtedly defend any force that strives and fights for these ideas and these kinds of solutions.

Likewise, from the point of view of international conditions, there is no need to emphasize to what extent the atmosphere of international change affirms this movement, and how the waves of freedom and liberation become more pervasive and glorious every day.

My dear compatriots inside and outside the country, from the point of view of Iran's problems and from the angle of international change, everything points to the fact that our goal, the goal of the return to popular government and the establishment of a democratic and publicly-ruled government in Iran, is correct, and the way that we have adopted to reach this goal, meaning the way of reconciliation and national cooperation for all forces believing in freedom and independence for Iran from left and right, religious and non-religious, monarchist and republican, is also the right way, and the one that is in step with the spirit of the times. It only needs great concern and continuous effort for us to realize this idea with the help of one another. We must make the forces of liberation and national deliverance more organized and active and bring about more like-mindedness and cooperation among them, so they will work with greater coordination inside and outside the country and popular struggles will take shape with clearer and more pervasive goals and the forces will be more unified to liberate the country.

It is natural that in order to realize these ideas we must begin with ourselves and the forces supporting constitutional monarchy. It is no secret to anyone that the forces supporting constitutional monarchy and in general the "monarchists," like other political views, are very extensive and include various inclinations and make-ups. This diversity in political choice and social make-up among

the monarchist forces is also a natural matter. It is incumbent upon us, however, to coordinate this diversity as much as possible to reach the goals on the path of liberating Iran and establishing a free and progressive society in our country, and, by bringing about coordination among them, we must try to coordinate these forces with other political forces in order to liberate Iran. For this purpose, it will be useful and valuable to have extensive propaganda on the views and principles of liberation, to hold meetings, organize public demonstrations, and most importantly, to keep up a continuous dialogue on the various struggles of political forces and organizing them around unifying slogans and goals. It is also a clear truth, however, that it is no easy thing that can be achieved in a short time to bring about this kind of coordination under the difficult and complex living conditions of Iranians outside the country. The combative forces of Iran are scattered over various countries and continents of the world.

To difficulties of this kind, which arise from the dispersion of forces in various countries and continents of the world, we may add other difficulties which arise from the experiences of the past and historical separations. Our view and those of many others on what happened in the past are not the same. The passage of time has not yet done enough to clarify the dark corners and the important events of our nation's history in such a way that everyone has a coordinated, and to the extent possible, an identical view of them, to enable us to go beyond personal and factional objectives. We have little experience with democratic struggle, and we still have a long way ahead of us in organization and planning, and we must travel that path with patience and high concern. These are examples of the problems and difficulties that lie in our path, and if we consider them all together, we see how difficult it is to create unity of views and action among the various factions of a specific political orientation and then to coordinate them with the goals and objectives of the political struggles of other national groups.

The fact that a task is difficult, however, does not mean that it is impossible. It does not mean that we should view the goal of unity and coordination of forces unattainable and impossible and give up efforts in this regard. On the contrary, we must search and find the most effective and practical way to achieve the goal, and how the existing problems can be overcome in the course of time and achieve that coordination and unity that is our hope. In order to find the most practical and suitable ways, we must use the natural essence of our nation's political forces and we must make sufficient use of their natural strengths.

My purpose in saying this is to bring out a point that is a strength of the monarchists and supporters of constitutional monarchy, notwithstanding all the divisive and unproductive elements that may exist among them. I referred to a number of them. They have an advantage over other groups which cannot be overlooked: Our advantage over other groups is that even though we are not sufficiently organized, we are one step ahead of the others with regard to the leadership apparatus. It is no secret to anyone that the supporters of constitutional monarchy have their leadership symbol and apparatus. It is a tradition around which they wish to rally.

From this point of view, the difference between the supporters of constitutional monarchy and other political forces is a difference over the essence and quality of this apparatus. This very difference of essence and quality means that our methods of organization and planning will also be different to an extent. We must therefore not sit and wait for all the favorable conditions. We must begin the work of organization and planning from a more practical and effective point.

My dear compatriots, these are among the most crucial and fateful days for our nation, and the world also is living through the most sensitive moments in the history of mankind. The waves of mass uprisings for liberation throughout the world have released a storm which is destroying the long list of history's greedy and despotic rulers one after another. In our dear country Iran also, the landscape of popular rebellion is depriving the ruling despots of their sleep. Experience shows that there is no fundamental difference concerning the basic principles necessary to manage society among the forces opposed to the ruling religious despots. If we sit and talk together and put forth our views clearly and directly, we will easily be able to reach a positive result and make the struggle more extensive and effective. Our problem is to create a reliable spokesman to speak to various incidents and help form a democratic opposition. Were it not for those practical difficulties to which I referred, and if we could all gather any time and anywhere to express our views and opinions and make decisions, nothing could be better than for these forces themselves to select and designate this reputable spokesman, a spokesman who on the one hand could handle propaganda, the spread of the principles of liberation and the formation of our own forces, and on the other hand could hold talks with other forces and coordinate the struggle inside and outside the country, and who could move forward with adequate competence and persistence. Unfortunately, however, for the reasons I gave, such a thing is not possible now. So what must be done? In view of the difficulties I have enumerated, in view of the structural and essential features of the groups, to which I referred, in view of the urgency of the matter and the need to find a practical solution that will bring us closer to our objective, isn't it better that I myself accept this responsibility and mission from you? Let me choose a group and announce that this group, as the coordination and communications group, will have two basic responsibilities. On the one hand it would handle propaganda and the spread of the principles and aspirations of liberation among all the people, and especially among the supporters of constitutional monarchy, and it would bring greater coordination to these forces, and on the other hand it would talk with other political forces to create a national democratic opposition. If you agree with me in this analysis, and if

you consider this approach to the problem proper under present conditions, I will choose and announce the composition, number of members, and the leader of this group as soon as possible, so that they can undertake a sustained effort, with my total support and the full backing of yourselves and other forces supporting constitutional monarchy, to achieve the goals I have enumerated. The results of the work of this group will set the theoretical and practical direction for our future steps and activities. We will all try to implement the policies and slogans this group produces in its work. Let us work with one heart and one voice, and spare no effort in this area.

In conclusion, I want to say a few words about the young generation of Iran, a generation whose future is diminished every day by the regime, especially those who fought tooth and nail in the deserts and mountains to defend Iranian soil.

Nationalism is not a theory for them; it flows in their blood. The difference between Iran's friends and foes is not simply in their minds, it is in their flesh and bones. Come, let us all commit, and we will recover your rights from the usurpers.

May God be with you, long live Iran.

*President Blasts Pahlavi Family in Sermon

90OI0226F London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] This week at his Friday prayers sermon, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the Pahlavi family is the agent of the nation's destruction and said that in the years when the necessary conditions existed for the nation's economic advancement and construction, the Pahlavi family ruined the country.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said this as a pretext for reporting on his trip to the Dashtyari and Bashagerd areas. He said: I curse this wretched Pahlavi family, that spoiled and ruined most of this country through the best 50 years of this nation's life, in the most suitable circumstances for serving the cause of construction.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani did not say what services were rendered to the people in deprived areas such as Dashtyari and Bashagerd in the last 11 years under the Islamic government.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's attack on the Pahlavi family and his accusing them of ruining Iran is happening at a time when popular support within the country for Reza Pahlavi has increased sharply, and according to reliable reports slogans calling for the establishment of constitutional monarchy have been written on the walls in the capital and in many of the major cities.

*Appointments of New Governors Announced 28 Feb

90AS0011F Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 28 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] By separate decrees issued by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Abdollah Nuri, the interior minister, the following appointments were made:

- Mohammad Begheyri, governor of Damghan.
- Akbar Darzi-Eslam, governor of Sume'eh Sara.
- Hasan Rezayi, governor of Astara.
- 'Abdolreza Jamali, governor of Esfahan.
- 'Abbas Khorshidi-Nazlu, Governor of Mahabad.
- Ahmad Mahdavi-Abhari, governor of Shahrud.
- 'Abdolrasul Shari'ati-Nezhad, governor of Dashti.

*Appointments to Offices Announced 7 Feb

90AS0011I London KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 7 Feb 90 p 4

[Text] By a decree from Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani, the vice president and chief of the Plan and Budget Organization, Seyyed Akbar Hashemi was appointed the Administrator of the Office of Research and Technical Standards of the Plan and Budget Organization.

According to the Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Interior, the following appointments were made by separate decrees from Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri, the minister of interior:

- Mohammad 'Ali Ahmadian, to the post of Deputy Governor of Yazd for Political and Security Affairs.
- 'Ali Bakhsh Jahanbakhsh, to the post of Deputy Governor General of Gilan for Reconstruction.
- Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyn Bashiri, to the post of the Deputy Governor General of Hamadan for Planning and Administrative-Financial Affairs.
- Mohammad Mottaki, to the post of Governor of Fuman.
- Abolghasem Sadeqizadeh to the post of Governor of Qasr-e Shirin.

The above have begun working in their respective positions.

*Appointments to Offices Announced 7 Mar

90AS0011G Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 7 Mar 90 p 4

[Text]

- By a decree from Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, Seyyed Jamal Sa'adatian was appointed the head of the Office of Advisors.

The text of the decree is as follows:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful,

Excellency Mr. Seyyed Jamal Sa'adatian, based on your experience and record of service, by this decree you are appointed the head of the Office of Advisors. To facilitate the fulfillment of the duties of the advisors, all respective officials are obligated to cooperate with you. I

ask the Almighty success for you. [signed] Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president 23 February 1990

Hojjat ol-Eslam Sa'adat was appointed the Representative of the Office of the Vali-ye Faqih [supreme jurisprudent] in the Naval Forces of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps.

By a decree from Mohsen Rafiqdust, head of the Oppressed and Life-Givers Foundation, Mohammad Pishgahi-Fard was appointed the Deputy for Art and Cultural Affairs of this foundation.

By a decree from Engineer 'Asgari-Tabataba'i, the deputy minister of housing and urban development and the chief executive officer of the Urban Land Organization, Engineer Jahandefa'i was appointed the Director General of the Urban Land Organization for the province of Gilan.

By a decree from Karbaschi, the mayor of Tehran, Seyyed Mohammad Reza Gharzi was appointed adviser to the mayor of Tehran for land and urban development.

*Appointments To Offices Announced 14 Mar

90AS0011H Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 14 Mar 90 p 4

[Text]

- According to decrees issued by Ayatollah Yazdi, head of the Judiciary, 'Ali Larijani was appointed as the First Representative and Seyyed Hoseyn Musavian as the Second Representative of the Judiciary in the Voice and the Vision.
- Shamseddin Khareqani was appointed by Dr. Velayati to the post of Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in African and Arab Affairs. Khareqani was previously the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Ghana.
- The Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Industries announced: By a decree from Engineer Ne'matzadeh, Minister of Industries, Engineer 'Abdollah Movahhed-Kashani has been appointed the Director General for Commerce of this ministry.
- By a decree from Engineer Mahluji, Minister of Mines and Metals, Dr. Mohammad Mehdi Behkish has been appointed the Economic Advisor to this ministry.
- Hushang Janipur has been appointed the Director General for Tribal Affairs of the province of Khuzestan by Dr. 'Ali Ghanbari, the Deputy Minister of Reconstruction Crusade and Chief of the Tribal Affairs Organization.
- Also, by another decree, Gholamhoseyn Bahma'i was appointed the Director General for Administrative-Financial Affairs of the Tribal [Affairs] Organization.
- Per the suggestion of the Administrator of the Office of the Friday Prayer Leader of Tehran and the approval of His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Revolution and Moslems, Engineer 'Abbas Akhundi was appointed the Chief Executive Officer of Tehran's Grand Prayer Site project.
- 'Alireza Karam was appointed by a decree from Mustafa Mo'in as the Administrator of the Offic the Central Faculty Selection Board. Also, by anc decree from him [Mo'in] Seyyed Hoseyn Mus Nejad was appointed as the Secretary to the Ce Student Selection Board.
- By the approval of the General Council of Banks the decree issued by Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, min of economic affairs and finance and the head o General Council of Banks, Seyyed Mahmud Ab and Fariborz Sha'banian were appointed to the B of Directors of Bank-e Mellat and Gholamho Vahid-Nia was appointed to the Board of Directo Bank-e Sepah.

Nepal & Bhutan

NC Favors 'Status Quo Ante' With India

BK2604092090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] The Nepali Congress [NC] says that it favors status quo ante with India as in March last year till a trade and transit treaty is signed. An economic resolu adopted by the Central Executive Committee of the p which is a partner of the interim government along the United Left Front, says in the meanwhile negotiat could go on for a new treaty. This, it says, is necessa mitigate the hardships of the people and improve economy of the country which is in a bad shape.

Briefing newsmen in Kathmandu today, a p spokesman said the meeting presided over by the p minister and the acting president of the party, Mr. Bhattarai, also adopted a political resolution which ommends immediate dissolution of the district, t and village panchayats [councils]. These are t replaced with certain committees in the Local Dev ment Ministry and for the time being the work ca administered by local development ministers. He his party feels that the post of the zonal commissi can be abolished. About punishing the guilty [who pressed the pro-democracy movement], the spokes said the interim government has to work within constitutional provisions.

AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspond Harish Segon, reports that it is the first meeting o Executive Committee of the party after the multi-p system was restored in the country earlier this m after a gap of 30 years.

Overnight Curfew in Kathmandu, Lalitpur Exten

BK2604104690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1037 G 26 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 26 (AFP)—The Nepalese ernment said Thursday [26 April] that it was exten the curfew on the capital and the outlying subur Lalitpur for another dusk-to-dawn period. It will b fourth straight day of curfew for Kathmandu and

second day in a row for Lalitpur. The new government of Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai officially announced it would impose the curfew in Kathmandu and Lalitpur from 8:00 p.m. Thursday to 5:00 a.m. Friday [27 April].

The curfew has already caused the curtailment of international flights to Nepal, especially at night, and created hardship for tourists.

Nepalese officials said earlier Thursday that the government was considering keeping the curfew in force for several more days, as life was starting to return to normal since it was imposed Monday [23 April], when 10,000 protestors clashed with police, leaving at least eight people dead and 10 injured.

The unrest followed King Birendra's decision to abolish a ban on political parties after a seven-week pro-democracy movement.

Pakistan

Bhutto Reaffirms Commitment to Kashmiris

PM2604104890 London BBC Television Network in English 2130 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by correspondent Brian Barron on BBC 2 "Newsnight" program during a report on Kashmir crisis; in Islamabad—no date given—recorded]

[Text] [Barron] Prime Minister, is there a danger that Pakistan and India are talking each other into another conflict?

[Bhutto] There is certainly a threat of war, but the importance is to prevent that conflict from becoming a reality. I believe that is the challenge that we have before the Government of India and Pakistan—to rise above narrow considerations and to make sure that peace prevails over all other temptations. It is unfortunate that the Government of India has spoken of teaching Pakistan a lesson. We have stated publicly—in Parliament and outside Parliament—that we are prepared to talk about a political solution to the problem of Kashmir.

[Barron] Are you saying that, in effect, India is threatening you?

[Bhutto] The way I see it, the uprising in India and the uprising in Kashmir has got out of hand for India: India doesn't know how it's going to control it. Repression is not working and therefore, running out of options, India is beginning to blame Pakistan, which is indeed unfortunate.

[Barron] The bridge at Chakothi on the United Nations truce line is a major friction point. Up to 10,000 Muslim Kashmiris have fled to the Pakistan side since the Indian Army tried to crush the popular uprising in the Kashmiri capital of Srinagar. These young men in Muzaffarabad not only call themselves mujahidin; they're appealing to Pakistan for military help. These young men, these mujahidin—self-styled—are clamoring for arms and for training. What happens when those requests reach your desk?

[Bhutto] We cannot at the moment think of providing arms or training to the people of Kashmir, because we believe that the intrinsic strength of the movement is the fact that it is a) indigenous, and it is b) an uprising by the people. India would very much like to divert it into a Pakistan-sponsored insurrection. We would not like to provide any basis for such claims, which to date remain unsubstantiated. However, we are prepared to give our political support, our moral support, and our diplomatic support to the people of Kashmir.

[Barron] But this very judicious response surely does mean that, in a sense, you are going to have to disappoint the aspirations of the Kashmiris, who...

[Bhutto interrupts] We will not let down the people of Kashmir; we cannot, and we will not, let down the people of Kashmir. The problem of Kashmir cannot be solved by a conflict. The people of Pakistan know that if they are to be punished for their diplomatic and political support to the Kashmiri cause, nonetheless, the Kashmiri cause itself will not die down. We have been threatened with war, and we have undergone two conflicts, but Kashmir has not disappeared. It has remained there: It will always remain there. And that is why we urge that there should be a political solution; that is why we urge that there should be no thought of war, of death, of destruction, but there should be a sincere attempt to bring peace. Not only that: What about India and Pakistan? Are the millions of people in the subcontinent always to live in tension? How can a normalization process come about if we turn a blind eye to what is happening in Kashmir? We had normalization: We moved on trade, we moved even on matters of defense. But then the uprising in Kashmir cast its shadow. So therefore, if there has to be a normalization of relations between India and Pakistan, it's very important that the governments of both countries turn their attention to what can be done about Kashmir.

[Barron] Prime Minister, given the political turbulence in Pakistan in the past, the martial law, is it conceivable that some military intelligence network could somehow clandestinely defy your orders and have some sort of arms training program for the Kashmiri dissidents?

[Bhutto] It would be very difficult for the government or any organ of the government to adopt an independent stance like that because it would throw into jeopardy the security of the country. The government itself must control and determine defense and foreign policy. I do not believe that anyone in the Armed Forces would undertake such an unpatriotic action as going outside the institutions of government to work for a sponsor for self-determined objectives.

[Barron] If the worst did happen and somehow a war began, who would be commander in chief in this

country? Would it be you, would it be the president, or would it be the Army chief of staff?

[Bhutto] The Constitution is very clear in this matter: It clearly puts the responsibility of defense matters on the government itself. The government may seek consultation from any organ of the state, but the decisions have to be taken by the government, which is the representative of the sovereignty of the people through Parliament.

[Barron] Which is you?

[Bhutto] Which is... The government would be fully in charge.

[Barron] That means you as prime minister?

[Bhutto] That does.

Yaqub Khan, Gujral Reach Agreement on Kashmir

BK2604014490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] The foreign ministers of Pakistan and India have agreed to take steps to reduce tension and to avoid confrontation between the two countries. An agreement to this effect was reached at a meeting in New York last night, during which the deteriorating situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir was discussed specifically. A statement issued after the informal and useful talks between the two foreign ministers said that senior military officers of the two countries should maintain contacts with each other for this purpose. The two sides should work with patience and restraint and keep the channels of communication open.

After his meeting with I.K. Gujral, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that the main objective is to find a peaceful settlement of the dispute and to avoid confrontation.

Answering questions about Kashmir, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that the two sides expressed their recognized stands. Pakistan made it clear that it does not consider Kashmir as an integral part of India and it feels that the Kashmiri people should be given the opportunity to exercise their right of self-determination as enshrined in the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. It also stated that repression and atrocities in Indian-occupied Kashmir should be stopped.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that the Indian external affairs minister mentioned the allegations of interference, which were totally rejected by Pakistan. However, he said, the important thing is that despite differences in the stands of the two sides, they have agreed to avoid creating a situation which may lead to confrontation or conflict.

When asked when they will be meeting again, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that the channels of communication are open at all levels, but the date and time for the next meeting was not finalized. Answering a question, the Pakistani foreign minister expressed confidence that the current round of talks will help reduce tension.

When the Indian external affairs minister was asked if the talks have reduced the possibility of a conflict between Pakistan and India, he said that India is ready for peace and wants to avoid war. He described his talks with Sahabzada Yaqub Khan as fruitful.

India, Pakistan To Check Unusual Border Activity

BK2504130590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Apr 90 pp 1, 8

[Text] Lahore, April 24—The Federal Minister for Interior, Chaudhry Aitzaz Ahsan on Tuesday [24 April] said that Pakistan and India had agreed to check any unusual activity on the border and decided to carry out coordinating simultaneous patrol on frontiers.

He said this decision has been taken at a meeting held recently between Interior Secretaries of both the countries. He said that the Rangers on Pakistan borders and border security force on Indian soil will carry out patrol in accordance with the decision taken at this high-level meeting.

He was talking to newsmen at an Iftar [fast breaking] party hosted by him in honour of PPP [Pakistan People's Party] workers at his residence here Tuesday.

A number of PPP leaders including Fakhar Zaman, Maj. (Retd) Muhammad Sadiq, Sardar Zafar Iqbal MPA [Member of Provincial Assembly] were also present on the occasion.

Chaudhry Aitzaz Ahsan reiterated that there was no camp in Pakistan meant for training of Kashmiris and the blame of Indian authorities in this respect was totally baseless. He said why should we impart training to Kashmiris in Pakistan as it was against the norms of International laws.

The Federal Minister asserted that Pakistan was in favour of the Kashmir issue to be settled in light of the United Nations resolution and Simla agreement. He said the Indian authorities should also recognise the right of self-determination of Kashmiri people.

The Federal Interior Minister said that Pakistan was in favour of developing cordial relations with India on an equal basis. He asserted that we do not want war with India but respect principles of peace on both sides.

However, he said, Pakistan will never back out from its cause to provide moral support to Kashmiris, who are fighting for their right of self-determination. He said Pakistan's cause was very clear in this connection and we will never favour war on the Kashmir issue with India.

Chaudhry Aitzaz Ahsan said if India imposes war on Pakistan, the entire nation will be on the back of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and its every child, elder and youngman will not hesitate to sacrifice his life to defend the motherland.

Replying to a question, he said that he personally was in this favour that all illicit arms be registered with the government because this act will help to minimise crimes in the country. He declared that it was a wrong step of the Punjab Government to surrender all arms and said this act will make the law abiding citizens unsafe in the hands of criminals.

He explained that the licensed rifle had saved precious lives of the family of Professor Tahirul Qadri [leader of Pakistan Awami Tehrik Party], and if he had surrendered the arms, he and his family members could have been finished.

UN Group Chief Denies Making Remarks on Kashmir

BK2504115990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] The chief of the UN military observers group in Pakistan, Brigadier General Jeremiah N. Wright said he has not given any on the record or formal interview to any local or foreign journalist.

In a statement issued in Rawalpindi today, he referred to the reports appearing in newspapers yesterday quoting him as saying that the incidents of violations along the Line of Control have increased from the Indian side. He clarified that the function of his organization was to supervise the cease-fire between India and Pakistan and it was not their mandate to get involved in the debate involving the current problem in Kashmir.

Azad Kashmir Premier Holds News Conference

BK2504125790 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 25 Apr 90 p 6

[Text] Islamabad—"We would invite Nawaz Sharif [Punjab chief and Islamic Democratic Alliance leader] if Mohtarma [Ms.] Benazir Bhutto came to campaign in Azad Kashmir, for PPP [Pakistan People's Party] candidates in the forthcoming election".

This was stated by Sardar Sikandar Hayat, Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, at a Press conference here on Tuesday [24 April].

He said the Prime Minister of Pakistan should not take sides during the forthcoming elections in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. "She will remain the head of Kashmir Council whosoever may become next Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir", he remarked.

Calling the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs "a white elephant", he alleged that Federal Minister of Kashmir Affairs Mohammad Hanif Khan was interfering in the internal affairs of Azad Kashmir. He said when the Pakistani Minister says that they would not accept results of elections in Azad Kashmir if they are rigged, it means that if PPP loses, the elections are rigged, if PPP wins they are fair.

He said if his party won, they would review the existence of Kashmir Affairs Ministry. "This ministry is of no use and it should be done away with at the earliest" he said. He refuted the allegations of the Federal Minister that the Government of Azad Kashmir was spending public money on its electoral campaign.

The Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir alleged that the Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs was misusing official facilities to interfere in the affairs of Azad Kashmir to help PPP win the elections. He said that when PTV [Pakistan Television] shows the Federal Minister reviewing the arrangements for elections in Azad Kashmir along with Azad Kashmir's Election Commissioner it tantamounted to intervention in Azad Kashmir's affairs. He added that holding of election in Azad Kashmir was the responsibility of his government only.

Alleging that the Federal Minister was involved in political horse-trading, he said that funds of People's Programme for Development [PPD] were being used as bribe to win the elections. "Our Government did not raise any objection against PPD Programmes for Azad Kashmir but we had suggested that the money should be spent through some institutions and not through individuals which is being practised", he said.

He alleged that the budget of Azad Kashmir had been made to stagnate at the financial level which prevailed two years ago. He said that the present situation "forced" him to ask for royalty from the income of Mangla Dam, share in the federal taxes and Kashmir property. "The price of Kashmir property is not known but the share of Kashmir in Mangla Dam's income is between 800 million to 900 million rupees and in federal taxes between 500 million to 550 million rupees", he maintained, also reminding that Prime Minister Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto had promised to release to Kashmir Council 30 million rupees, which she has not done so far. When his attention was drawn to the statement of the Chief Secretary of Azad Kashmir Government that the Federal Government had given 10 million rupees to the Azad Kashmir Government, he said, "it is a lie".

Talking about the situation in Occupied Kashmir, he said Kashmiris would not accept any agreement reached between the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan and India when they meet in New York. He complained that every Government in Pakistan had been ignoring the opinion of Kashmiris while concluding agreements affecting Kashmir.

He apprehended that India might invade Kashmir and occupy it if Pakistan did not give full attention to its defence. He regretted that neither Federal Government nor provincial Government [as published] has given any financial help to refugees coming from Occupied Kashmir since January. Azad Kashmir Government is helping these refugees from its own resources.

He said there were some 8,000 refugees from Occupied Kashmir. He also said that some refugees from the camp

of Shaikh Rashid have been taken to refugee camps in Azad Kashmir. He added that Jamaat-i-Islami is also running some refugee camps in Azad Kashmir. He denied that Sardar Qayyum [Azad Kashmir president] had taken any funds from foreign sources in the name of Kashmiri refugees.

When asked what Pakistan should do to help solve Kashmir problem, he said the United Nations has given its verdict and Pakistan should try to make the UN implement this verdict. Pakistan should have called meetings of UN, ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] and other international organisations to consider the situation in Occupied Kashmir. He added that Kashmiris wanted financial help from Pakistan.

Paper Notes Army's High-Profile Role in Politics

BK2204160990 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Apr 90 p 4

[Editorial: "The Message is Clear"]

[Text] The no-holds-barred assessment of the domestic political and the regional security environment as made public on behalf of the top military commanders of Pakistan in session for two days at Rawalpindi's General Headquarters should make the nation in general and its political managers of the day in particular sit up. The Army's high-profile presence in the political arena has been the norm rather than the exception in our chequered history. But there were sound enough reasons to believe the post-Zia military leadership when it repeatedly ruled out since the August 17, 1988 change, any political role for itself or for the institute it represented. It was not a question of accepting such assurances on face value. The nation has known better. But the Army's conviction of staying out of politics was credible because it was backed by a clearly-stated appreciation of the harm the country had to suffer at the hands of the earlier military regimes.

At the same time, however, General Mirza Aslam Beg would make it a point to indicate, albeit tacitly, that the new leadership of the Armed Forces of Pakistan was committed to the democratic process itself and not to whoever may at any given time be running the civilian show. He would also emphasise that any change of regime in this country must also be brought about within the permissible democratic framework. Nevertheless, his formulation of the armed forces' self-perceived role of providing a 'security umbrella' to the system, did leave a certain undefined, grey area between the black and white of civil-military demarcation. Has the present military high command continued to entertain doubts about our democratic system's inherent ability to cope with the mounting challenge of ensuring internal stability and security against external threats?

The question has by now become rhetorical at any rate. The Corps Commanders' "consensus" indictment regarding the "crisis situation" in Sindh and the "very depressing" political climate in the country is a clear manifestation of the Army leadership's collective reading that things are far from well. This, coupled with the information provided about the concentration of Indian troops at an identified sector along southern Punjab and menacingly close to the international border, adds up to a very grim scenario indeed. Nor has the military leadership tried to understate the connection. The internal situation, according to the Generals, "could hardly be helpful to lend a united support to the Armed Forces in facing the imminent challenge". The message could not have been clearer, and the suggested remedy too has not been left unstated: "Political dialogue, negotiations and talks are the basic ingredients of a democratic government to solve such dispute" as the present crisis in Sind.

The scenario presents certain hard realities, none of which can be wished away. There is this threat of Indian aggression substantiated further by no less a person than the Prime Minister of India in his Tuesday's [10 April] speech in parliament; Karachi as also the rest of Sindh sits atop a rumbling volcano; and, last but not the least, the military has minced no words in declaring that such a potentially disruptive internal situation cannot be afforded any longer. It may not be out of place here to mention that our present state of fragmented and largely uncommitted politics may not require any extraconstitutional measure on the part of the hardcore establishment to achieve the results which it may desire to secure internal stability. Besides, unlike many a past military adventurer in Pakistan, the track record of top military leadership in the country today and the pervasive sense of insecurity within the country due to a combination of both internal and external factors, are also aspects that may go into a final reckoning.

Polish Official Announces Increasing Ties

BK2604025090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Poland will increase bilateral relations with Pakistan in view of the changes now taking place in Europe and Poland. This was stated by Polish Under Secretary of State Jan Majewski in Islamabad last night.

Majewski said that his country supports Pakistan's stand on the Afghan issue. He added that the Kashmir issue should be resolved in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions.

President Meets With New Ambassador to Iran

LD2404081990 Tehran IRNA in English 0713 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Islamabad, April 24, IRNA—Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in a meeting here with the country's new ambassador to Tehran Shemshad Ahmad on Monday [23 April] reiterated the need for further expansion of relations with the neighbouring Islamic republic.

President Ishaq Khan also gave necessary guidelines for further broadening of Islamabad-Tehran cooperations in all fields and asked the ambassador to fully employ potential in this connection.

BNM Withdraws From Baluchistan Government

BK2604024290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] The Baluchistan National Movement [BNM] withdrew from the coalition government in Baluchistan yesterday. Baluchistan Assembly Speaker Mir Akram Baluch, the provincial Health Minister Dr. Abdul Malik, and BNM members handed in their resignations to Chief Minister Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti.

A press release signed by party chief Dr. Abdul Hai Baluch and issued in Quetta stated that the decision to withdraw from the coalition government was made at the 10-13 April meeting of the party's central committee in Karachi. The press release, however, adds that at the federal level, the BNM will support the present government in order to strengthen democracy and democratic institutions in the country.

Sri Lanka

Government Invites EPRLF for Talks in May

BK2404095690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0943 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Colombo, April 24 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government has invited a regional Tamil political party for talks on May 15 on the country's bloody ethnic conflict in which thousands have died, party sources said Tuesday [24 April]. A spokesman for the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) which dominates the provincial government in the Northeast said the invitation came in a letter Monday [23 April] from the Sri Lankan state minister for defence, Ranjan Wijeratne.

The EPRLF said it would be accepting the invitation for talks with the Sri Lankan Government. Mr. Wijeratne has informed the EPRLF that he and Justice Minister Shahul Hameed would represent the government at the negotiations.

The government invitation was in response to a letter sent by the EPRLF to Mr. Wijeratne stating that it did not consider a 19-point charter of demands it had put forward as "a precondition" for talks with Colombo.

The EPRLF said in a previous appeal that the charter of demands, which includes greater autonomy for the Northeast, would constitute the basis for dialogue. The Sri Lankan Government turned down the EPRLF appeal saying it would like to hold talks "without either party laying down conditions".

Colombo opened peace talks last April with the dominant Tamil rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) which today virtually controls the sprawling northeastern region, home to the island's Tamil minority. The LTTE wants the EPRLF-headed government in the Northeast dissolved and fresh elections to choose a new provincial administration.

The EPRLF, which is violently opposed to the LTTE, was elected to govern the Northeast in elections held in November 1988 and boycotted by the Tigers.

Iranian Presidential Envoy Continues Talks

Meets Hameed, Herath

LD2304181590 Tehran IRNA in English 1536 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Colombo, April 23, IRNA—Visiting Iranian presidential envoy Hojjat ol-Eslam Masih Mohajeri today called on Justice Minister A.C.S. Hameed who is the chairman of the North East Peace Committee. They discussed matters of common interests and relationship between the two countries after the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Hameed explained the present situation of Muslims in the north and east and the government's future plans for peace in the area. The discussion lasted for about one and a half hours.

Later in the day, Hoj. Mohajeri met Foreign Minister Harold Herath to review political and economical matters of mutual concern.

Herath gave a detailed picture of country's foreign policy and how President Premadasa took a constructive decision to severed relations with the illegal Zionist entity. He said Sri Lanka expects more assistance from Muslim countries and friendly nations for her development activities.

The Iranian envoy said that he had come here to assess how the Islamic Republic could assist Sri Lanka. He promised that he would explain [to] President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani about the discussions he held with several ministers. Mohajeri extended an invitation to the President R. Premadasa to visit Iran and also to Herath. He requested Herath to be present on the ceremonial opening of the Sri Lanka mission in Tehran.

He also met the State Foreign Minister John Amaratunge today. Iranian Charge d'Affaires Abdol Razzaq Farajizad was also present.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohajeri is scheduled to call on Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge tonight and Plantation Minister Ranjan Wijeratne who was the earlier foreign minister will host a dinner in honour of the Iranian visitor tonight.

Mohajeri will pay a courtesy call on President R. Premadasa tomorrow morning to deliver the special message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and will call on the speaker Alhaj M.H. Mohammad later.

Banquet Held

BK2404142090 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] The visiting Iranian envoy, Hojjat ol-Eslam Masih Mohajeri, called on Prime Minister and Finance Minister D.B. Wijetunge at (?the secretariat) last night. Their discussions centered on the development of a joint economic commission between the two countries. The prime minister expressed his desire that Iran would buy more tea from Sri Lanka in the future. He thanked the Iranian authorities for providing buses to Sri Lanka.

The envoy paid a tribute to President Premadasa for his readiness to sever relations with Israel, and said Mr. Premadasa has become a close friend not only of the Muslims in Sri Lanka but also of those throughout the world. Mr. Mohajeri said that the Iranian president and the people would always remember Sri Lanka for their courageous action and will make available all possible assistance in the near future.

The minister of plantation and state minister for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, hosted a dinner in honor of the Iranian envoy last night. It was attended by the minister of foreign affairs, Harold Herath, and the secretary to the Foreign Ministry, Bernard Tilakaratna. The two ministers and the visiting envoy discussed matters of mutual interests, which lasted for two hours. They discussed the opening of the Sri Lankan mission in Tehran. The Sri Lankan ministers assured that the mission would be opened soon. Iranian Charge d'Affaires A.R. Farajizad took part in these discussions.

Completes Visit 24 Apr

LD2404214390 Tehran IRNA in English 1918 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Colombo, April 24, IRNA—Visiting Iranian special envoy Hojjat ol-Eslam Masih Mohajeri met with President R. Premadasa this morning and submitted him a message from Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Mohajeri congratulated President Premadasa for his "courageous act to curtail Israeli relations." This action of President Premadasa, he said, made one billion Muslims throughout the world happy, adding that very few leaders in the third world could make decisions of this nature.

President Premadasa briefed the envoy on how he decided to sever relations with Israel and on various development programmes underway in his country particularly poverty alleviation programme aimed at eradicating poverty among the poor masses. He added that several development programmes have been stalled over the last two or three years because of subversive activities in the country. "Now we are heading forward with assistance from several friendly nations in our development work," he said.

Premadasa while thanking President Rafsanjani and the Iranian people for honouring him requested Iran to come forward to help Sri Lanka.

Mohajeri while assuring assistance to Sri Lanka, extended an invitation to Sri Lankan president to pay an official visit to Iran. The invitation was accepted by President Premadasa, who also invited his Iranian counterpart to pay a visit to Colombo.

The envoy later called on the speaker M.H. Mohammed at the parliamentary complex and discussed matters of common interest. The speaker who was earlier invited to visit Iran said he would do so shortly. Mohajeri also spent a few minutes in the parliamentary proceedings.

The special envoy toured the hill country Kandy Area by helicopter provided by Defence Ministry. He also visited the Buddhist sacred tooth relic temple in Kandy.

Mohajeri will leave Sir Lanka tonight after completing his five-day successful visit.